



PRESCOTT TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES

Monday, September 20, 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, and Shawn Merriman, Manager of Building & By-law Services, 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 6:03 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion 216-2021:

That the agenda for the Council meeting of September 20, 2021, be approved as amended.

Carried

The agenda was amended by adding Item # 17.3 – Legion Week.

3. Declarations of Interest – None

4. Presentations – None

5. Delegations

5.1 Volunteer Centre of St. Lawrence-Rideau - Tamara Baldwin & Mary Lynn Villeneuve

Mayor Todd welcomed Tamara Baldwin and Mary Lynn Villeneuve.

Mary Lynn Villeneuve spoke to a PowerPoint presentation. A copy of the presentation is held on file. She provided background on the organization, identified partnerships with outside organizations, and programs offered in the area.

Discussion was held regarding the Youth Financial Literacy program, regional statistics, additional support from other municipalities, the year-round tax program, and the ongoing need for volunteers.

Tamara Baldwin and Mary Lynn Villeneuve left the meeting at 6:28 p.m.

6. Minutes of the previous Council meetings

6.1 September 7, 2021

Motion 217-2021: Ostrander, Burton

That the Council minutes dated September 7, 2021, be accepted as presented.

Carried

7. Communications & Petitions – None

8. Consent Reports

Motion 218-2021: Young, Jansman

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. Approved Planning Advisory Committee Minutes – July 2021
2. Approved Committee of Adjustment Minutes – August 23, 2021
3. Weekly Zoom Call Notes – September 3, 2021 & September 10, 2021
4. Trent Lake resolution of support re: OHIP-Insured Eye Care Coverage to All Ontarians
5. City of Port Colborne resolution of support re: Phase Out of Ontario's Gas Plants

9. Committee Reports

9.1 Committee of Adjustment Staff Report 02-2021 - 198 James Street West

Shawn Merriman, Manager of Building & By-law Services, spoke to the report.

9.2 PAC Report 15 - 2021 - Site Plan Agreement File SPC 2021-02 220 Churchill Road

Motion 219-2021: Jansman, Burton

That Council approve the proposed Site Plan application SPC 2021-02 subject to the following conditions:

1. The balance of any outstanding taxes, including penalties and interest, (and any local improvement charges, if applicable) shall be paid to the Town.
2. That the site plan agreement of the lands, shall be registered and be submitted to the Town.; and

That staff be directed to bring back the attached Site Plan Agreement By-law to the Council meeting of October 4, 2021, for final review and consideration.

Carried

Matthew Armstrong, CAO/Treasurer, spoke to the report. He referenced the location of the property, the decision of the Planning Advisory Committee, and the multi-phased plan.

Discussion was held regarding the Site Plan, if the location would be staffed, the timeline for the development, and traffic concerns at the Churchill Road and Edward Street intersection.

10. Mayor

Mayor Todd spoke to his attendance at a recent meeting of the St. Lawrence Corridor Economic Development Commission, a meeting of Joint Services Committee of Leeds and Grenville on September 7, a meeting of the BIA held on September 14, and a Housing Affordability Task Force meeting held on September 22.

Mayor Todd spoke to recent traffic issues brought up at the recent meeting of the BIA.

11. Outside Boards, Committees and Commissions

Councillor Jansman spoke to her attendance at a Planning Advisory Committee meeting held on September 15 and a recent meeting of the BIA held on September 14.

Councillor McConnell spoke to his attendance at a St. Lawrence Shakespeare Meeting held on September 15. He referenced book displays focusing on Truth and Reconciliation at the Prescott Public Library, the upcoming Library Week proclamation, and Walker House programming.

Councillor Ostrander spoke to an upcoming Arena Fundraising Group meeting on September 29 and the Folkfest event taking place on September 26.

Councillor Shankar spoke to his attendance at an Arena Fundraising Group meeting. He thanked garden volunteers and Operations staff for their hard work on the gardens in Town. Councillor Shankar referenced the pole wraps downtown and the RiverRoute pilot project.

Councilor Young spoke to the BIA pole wraps, the need to educate drivers on the rules of crosswalks and pedestrians, and his attendance at a recent Grenville Community Futures Development Corporation Annual General meeting.

12. Staff

12.1 Staff Report 89-2021 - Property Standards By-Law

Motion 220-2021: McConnell, Burton

That Council receive Staff Report 89-2021 for information and provide feedback to staff prior to October 8, 2021; and

That staff be directed to bring back the By-law to the Council meeting of October 18, 2021, for final review and consideration.

Carried

Shawn Merriman, Manager of Building & By-law Services, spoke to the report. He referenced the inclusion of heritage properties, habitual property standard violations, the requirement to implement a Property Standards Committee, and the use of the AMPS system.

Discussion was held regarding determining property standards, and that the by-law would not come into effect until January 2022 and the public education aspect of the by-law.

12.2 Staff Report 90 - 2021 - Leeds Grenville - Housing Solutions for Vulnerable People

Motion 221-2021: Burton, Ostrander

That Council direct staff to send a letter of response to United Counties of Leeds and Grenville's Opportunity to Identify and Propose Properties / Buildings for the development of longer-term housing-based solutions to homelessness post COVID-19, seeking clarification on the issues identified in Staff Report 90-2021.

Carried

Matthew Armstrong, CAO/Treasurer, spoke to the report. He referenced the correspondence received from the United Counties of Leeds Grenville and the need for further clarification.

Discussion was held regarding further analysis, the need for input from Mental Health & Addictions, and the requirement for sewer and water on eligible properties.

13. Resolutions

13.1 OHIP and Optometrist Services

Motion 222-2021: Young, Shankar

WHEREAS routine eye care is critical in early detection of eye diseases like glaucoma, cataracts, and macular degeneration, and the health of eyes is critical to overall health and quality of life; and

WHEREAS Conditions that may be detected with an annual eye exam include Diabetes mellitus, Glaucoma, Cataract, Retinal disease, Amblyopia (lazy eye), Visual field defects (loss of part of the usual field of vision), Corneal disease, Strabismus (crossed eyes) Recurrent uveitis (an inflammation of the uvea, the middle layer of the eye that consists of the iris, ciliary body and choroid), Optic pathway disease; and

WHEREAS payments from OHIP have only increased 9% over the last 30 years, which has not come close to matching inflation of costs (which include rent, staff, utilities, equipment, taxes and supplies); and

WHEREAS the lack of funding makes it difficult to invest in modern technology, and newer technology means earlier detection of eye disease; and

WHEREAS the Provincial government refusal to formally negotiate with Optometrists for more than 30 years has forced the Optometrists to absorb approximately 173 million dollars annually in the cost to deliver eye care to Ontarians; and

WHEREAS the 2021 Ontario Budget did not address OHIP-insured eye care, Ontario Optometrists took action and voted to withdraw OHIP services starting September 1, 2021, unless the government agrees to legally-binding negotiations to fund these services at least to the cost of delivery; and

WHEREAS this job action will jeopardize good eyecare for those who need the care of an optometrist the most and will have the greatest impact on the most vulnerable groups. Children—who's lifetime ability to learn and develop depends

on good vision—to the elderly, who are at the greatest risk for vision-threatening ocular diseases.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Corporation of the Town of Prescott requests that the Provincial government recognize the value that access to quality eye care brings to all Ontarians and act now to protect it; and

THAT the Provincial government address the OHIP-insured eye care immediately and enter into legally-binding negotiations with Ontario Optometrists to fund these services at least to the cost of delivery, prior to any job action taking place;

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Doug Ford, the Honourable Christine Elliot, Ontario Minister of Health, the Honourable Steve Clark, Member of Provincial Parliament for Leeds-Grenville-Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes, the Honourable Michael Barrett, Member of Parliament for Leeds-Grenville-Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes, the Ontario Association of Optometrists, and all Leeds and Grenville municipalities.

Carried

14. By-laws

14.1 Alternative Voting

Lindsey Veltkamp, Director of Administration/Clerk, spoke to the By-law. She indicated that a clause had been included to remove the use of paper ballots for the 2022 Municipal Election following the discussion that took place at the previous Council meeting of September 7.

Discussion was held regarding the percentage of eligible electors that voted with paper in 2018, concerns regarding electronic voting methods in Long Term Care facilities, and potentially removing paper ballots for the 2026 Municipal Election.

Motion 223-2021: McConnell, Ostrander
That By-law 41-2021, being a by-law to authorize an alternative voting method for the 2022 Municipal Election be accepted with the exception of the clause to eliminate the use of paper ballots in the 2022 Municipal Election, and that this by-law be read and passed, signed by the Mayor and Clerk, and sealed by the seal of the Corporation.

Carried

15. New Business – None

16. Notices of Motion – None

17. Mayor's Proclamation

17.1 National Day of Truth and Reconciliation

Mayor Todd proclaimed September 30, 2021, as National Day of Truth and Reconciliation in the Town of Prescott.

17.2 World Alzheimer's Day

Mayor Todd proclaimed September 21, 2021, as World Alzheimer's Day in the Town of Prescott.

17.3 Legion Week

Mayor Todd proclaimed the week of September 19 until September 25, 2021, as Legion Week in the Town of Prescott.

18. Closed Session – None

19. Rise and Report – None

20. Confirming By-Law – 42-2021

Motion 224-2021: Young, Ostrander

That By-Law 42-2021, being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of the Council meeting held on September 20, 2021, be read and passed, signed by the Mayor and Clerk, and sealed by the seal of the Corporation.

Carried

21. Adjournment

Motion 225-2021: Burton, McConnell

That the meeting be adjourned until Monday, October 4, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. (Time: 8:20 p.m.).

Carried

Mayor

Clerk