



**PRESCOTT TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES**

Monday, December 12, 2022

6:00 p.m.

Council Chambers

360 Dibble St. W.

Prescott, Ontario

Present	Mayor Gauri Shankar, Councillor Leanne Burton, Councillor Mary Campbell, Councillor Justin Kirkby, Councillor Ruth Lockett, Councillor Lee McConnell, Councillor Tracey Young
Staff	Matthew Armstrong, CAO/Treasurer, Lindsey Veltkamp, Director of Administration/Clerk, Shawn Merriman, Manager of Building and Bylaw Services, Kaitlin Mallory, Deputy Clerk, Jessica Crawford, Deputy Treasurer

1. Call to Order

Mayor Shankar called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion 279-2022

Moved By Lockett
Seconded By Burton

That the agenda for the Council meeting of December 12, 2022 be approved as amended.

Carried

The agenda was amended by removing Item 5.1 Delegation: Prescott Curling Club - Strathcona Cup.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest expressed.

4. Presentations

4.1 Staff Report 118-2022 - Employee Service and Board & Committee Member Recognition

Kaitlin Mallory, Deputy Clerk, spoke to the report. She provided Council with background on the Employee Service Recognition Policy and the years of service milestones being recognized for staff that were not in attendance.

Mayor Shankar congratulated staff member Ryan Sobhie on receiving his 5 years of service pin with the Town of Prescott and recognized past volunteer board and committee members for their years of service.

5. Delegations

There were no delegations.

6. Minutes of the previous Council meetings

6.1 December 5, 2022

Motion 280-2022

Moved By Young

Seconded By Kirkby

That the Council minutes dated December 5, 2022, be accepted as presented.

Carried

7. Communications & Petitions

7.1 Grenville Condominium Corporation #4, 235 Water St. - Letter

Matthew Armstrong, CAO/Treasurer, spoke to the letter. He provided Council with background information regarding past discussions with the Condominium Corporation and stated that the food truck bylaw would come before Council for review at a future meeting.

Discussion was held regarding the privacy concerns expressed in the past, the standards for food service areas, and the timeline to review the bylaw in February of 2023.

8. Consent Reports

Mayor Shankar spoke to Item 8.1(1) - Township of Petrolia Resolution of Support re: Removal of Municipal Councillors Under Prescribed Circumstances.

Councillor Kirkby spoke to Item 8.1(2) - Township of Malahide resolution of support re: Federal Cannabis Act Review.

Council provided Staff with direction on bringing back the two items to a future Council meeting for further review and consideration.

8.1 Information Package

Mayor Shankar spoke to Item 8.1(1) - Township of Petrolia resolution of support re: Removal of Municipal Councillors under Prescribed Circumstances.

Councillor Kirkby spoke to Item 8.1(2) - Township of Malahide resolution of support re: Federal Cannabis Act Review.

Staff direction was provided to bring back more information on both resolutions to an upcoming meeting of Council.

9. Committee Reports

There were no Committee Reports.

10. Mayor

Mayor Shankar spoke to the Christmas Luncheon held on Friday, December 9.

11. Outside Boards, Committees and Commissions

Councillor Lockett spoke to the St. Lawrence-Rideau Immigration Partnership's Diversity Day which took place on Wednesday, December 7, in Kemptville. She referenced the guest speakers and the number of international students in the area.

12. Staff

12.1 Staff Report 119-2022 - Bill 23 More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022

Matthew Armstrong, CAO/Treasurer, spoke to the report. He highlighted the areas that Bill 23 would have on the Town of Prescott. He provided an overview on the changes to the Municipal Act, the Conservation Authorities Act, Development Charges, Community Benefits Charges, Parkland Dedication Changes, Ontario Heritage Act, Ontario Land Tribunal Act changes, Planning Act changes, the Ontario Underground Infrastructure Notification Systems Act, New Home Construction Licensing Act, and Supporting Growth and Housing in York and Durham Regions Act and the potential effects on the town.

Discussion was held regarding the support of other municipal resolutions, the expedition of the legislation, and the South Nation Conservation Authority.

Further discussion was held regarding site plan control approvals, changes to public meetings for plans of subdivisions, the environmental aspects of draining issues, and the need for more housing in the area.

Matthew Armstrong, CAO/Treasurer, spoke to reviewing and updating the Property Standards By-law and the Zoning By-law in 2023.

12.2 Staff Report 120-2022 - Grenville County Detachment Police Services Board Proposal

Motion 281-2022

Moved By Burton

Seconded By Kirkby

That Council endorse the joint submission of the Grenville County Police Services Detachment Board proposal to the Solicitor General of Ontario, as outlined in Staff Report 120-2022 as Option B, consisting of one board representing Merrickville- Wolford and North Grenville, and one board representing Augusta, Edwardsburgh Cardinal and Prescott; and

That Staff be directed to work with partnering board municipalities to develop terms of reference for the board.

Carried

Matthew Armstrong, CAO/Treasurer, spoke to a letter from the Solicitor General in 2021 advising Police Services Boards of the new OPP detachment board framework and to submit a formal proposal to establish detachment boards that best reflected community and local needs. He referenced a response from the Office of the Solicitor General requesting municipalities reconvene to come to a consensus and provide an update by December 31, 2022. Mr. Armstrong spoke to the proposed administration of the combined board and the proposed partnership.

Discussion was held regarding the administration of the meetings, the additional local members versus provincial appointees, and the current elected official sitting on the board.

Further discussion was held regarding the process for provincial appointees and continuing with receiving Prescott specific reporting.

12.3 Staff Report 121-2022 - 2023 Large Scale Infrastructure Projects

Matthew Armstrong, CAO/Treasurer, spoke to the report. He provided Council with an overview of the Edward Street overpass rehabilitation and background on the project.

Discussion was held regarding the inability to have a sidewalk on both sides of the overpass, concerns regarding the closure of the overpass possibly being extended, the unpredictability of the market which could affect the overall cost of the project, and the timing of the construction during school closures,

Mr. Armstrong spoke next to the Water Tower project.

Discussion was held regarding the possibility of adding a design at the top of the water tower, the expected water capacity of the water tower, considerations for future development, and the timeline for the project in relation to the construction of the arena.

Further discussion was held regarding infrastructure loans, safety of the construction area in proximity to the new arena, the potential effects of a total failure, and materials used.

12.4 Staff Report 122-2022 - 2023 Operational Budget - Health and Social Services

Jessica Crawford, Deputy Treasurer, spoke to the report. She referenced the budget timelines, provided an overview and background on Public Health, Paramedic Services, the Prescott Cemetery.

Ms. Crawford provided background on Ontario Works, St. Lawrence Lodge, and Children's Services.

Discussion was held regarding the repayment of the construction of the Lodge, and the frequency of the agreement from the County.

Ms. Crawford provided an overview and background to Council on Community Housing, the overall social servicing expenses, and highlighted the budget summary.

Discussion was held regarding typical timing of receiving budget final numbers from health and social services.

Matthew Armstrong, CAO/Treasurer provided clarity regarding the difference between the budget to budget and budget to project budget lines.

Discussion was held regarding maintenance of the stones at the cemetery and the cemetery's operational bylaws.

12.5 Staff Report 123-2022 - Museum Update and Winter Operating Hours

Motion 282-2022

Moved By Young

Seconded By Burton

That Council approve the request for the Museum and Visitor Centre to remain open from December 16th, 2022, through to April 29th, 2023, Thursdays to Saturdays from 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Carried

Matthew Armstrong, CAO/Treasurer, spoke to the report. He referenced the digitization of the artifacts at the museum, the continuation of the ongoing digitization, and the financial implications associate with keeping the museum open.

Discussion was held regarding the financial implications including staff salary, providing an opportunity for schools to view the museum during the winter season, and the only location in Town to purchase Town swag items.

Further discussion was held regarding maintaining consistent hours, working on a marketing plan in preparation for the tourism season, and the number of staff onsite at the museum.

13. Resolutions

There were no resolutions.

14. By-laws

There were no items under By-Laws.

15. New Business

There were no items under New Business.

16. Notices of Motion

16.1 Resolution of Support re: Extension of Ontario Staycation Tax Credit

Councillor Young provided Council with the following Notice of Motion:

Whereas the temporary Ontario Staycation Tax Credit was introduced in 2022 for leisure stays between January 1, 2022 and December 31, 2022; and

Whereas the Ontario Staycation Tax Credit encourages Ontario families to explore the province, while helping the tourism and hospitality sectors recover from the financial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

Whereas the Tourism Industry Association of Ontario (TIAO) has found that the Ontario Staycation Tax Credit has encouraged visitors to stay in Ontario, book trips where they had never visited before, and spend more on a visit than normal thus supporting local economies; and

Whereas the Ontario Staycation Tax Credit has had a positive impact and showcases the breadth of local tourism experiences and incentivizes visitor spending; and

Whereas the domestic spending supports our local industries and keeps dollars earned in Ontario, in Ontario; and

Whereas the Tourism Industry Association of Ontario (TIAO) supports the extension of the Ontario Staycation Tax Credit through 2023 and that the credit be expanded to include transient boating in order to encourage Ontarians to visit waterfront communities.

Now therefore, The Corporation of the Town of Prescott supports the Tourism Industry Association of Ontario (TIAO) request to the Minister of

Finance to extend the Ontario Staycation Tax Credit until at least December 31, 2023.

That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, MPP, Minister of Finance, the Honourable Steve Clark, MPP for Leeds-Grenville-Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes, Chris Bloore, President & CEO of Tourism Industry Association of Ontario (TIAO), Dr. Jessica Ng, Director, Policy and Government Relations, Tourism Industry Association of Ontario, and all Leeds and Grenville municipalities.

17. Mayor's Proclamation

There was no Mayoral Proclamation.

18. Period for Media Questions

There were no questions from the media.

19. Closed Session

There was no closed session.

20. Rise and Report

There was no rise and report.

21. Confirming By-Law – 54-2022

Motion 283-2022

Moved By Kirkby

Seconded By Lockett

That By-Law 54-2022, being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of the Council meeting held on December 12, 2022, be read and passed, signed by the Mayor and Clerk, and sealed by the seal of the Corporation.

Carried

22. Adjournment

Motion 284-2022

Moved By Young

Seconded By McConnell

That the meeting be adjourned to Tuesday, January 3, 2023. (Time: 8:02 p.m.)

Carried

Mayor



Clerk

