



**PRESCOTT TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES**

**Monday, February 27, 2023**

**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
Staff	Matthew Armstrong, CAO/Treasurer, Nathan Richard, Director of Operations, Lindsey Veltkamp, Director of Administration/Clerk, Dana Valentyne, Economic Development Officer, Kaitlin Mallory, Deputy Clerk, Jessica Crawford, Deputy Treasurer

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**1. Call to Order**

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

**2. Approval of Agenda**

Motion 40-2023

Moved By Kirkby  
Seconded By Burton

That the agenda for the Council meeting of Monday, February 27, 2023 be approved as presented.

Carried

**3. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest expressed.

**4. Delegations**

**4.1 Greater Fort Town Area Charity - Michel Larose**

Dan Gilpin, VP, of the Greater Fort Town Area Charity, provided Council with the history of the event, the community groups that benefitted, the recent Registered charity status and the charity's mission of focusing on youth in area.

Michel Larose, President, of the Greater Fort Town Area charity, spoke to the Youth Movement for physical and mental health programs, the peer mentorship program, and Fort Town Night Run event planned for May 6, 2023.

Discussion was held regarding the use of the Leo Boivin Community Centre and accounting for staff time.

Michel Larose requested that Mayor Shankar be available to present awards for the event.

Michel Larose and Dan Gilpin left the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

**4.2 Grenville Community Futures Development Corporation - Katie Nolan**

Katie Nolan, from Grenville Community futures Development Corporation, spoke to the PowerPoint presentation. A copy of the presentation is held on file.

Ms. Nolan provided Council with information regarding current programs and services and provided an overview of the organization, its vision and

mission, business loans for all stages, business advisory services. She referenced upcoming workshops, and acknowledged local businesses who contribute to their success.

Discussion was held regarding services being offered to all businesses, whether loans were issued or not.

Katie Nolan left the meeting at 6:37 p.m.

## **5. New Business**

### **5.1 Motion to Request to Amend Section 232 of the Municipal Act**

Moved By McConnell

Seconded By

WHEREAS the *Municipal Act, 2001* provides elected officials with the prescribed Declaration of Office; and

WHEREAS Section 232 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* states that a person shall not take a seat on the council of a municipality, including a person appointed to fill a temporary vacancy on an upper-tier council under section 267 but not including a person appointed to act in place of a head of council under section 242, until the person takes the declaration of office in the English or French version of the form established by the Minister for that purpose; and

WHEREAS the prescribed Declaration of Office, Item 4 states “ I will be faithful and bear true allegiances to His Majesty King Charles the Third.”; and

WHEREAS the current Declaration of Office forces a duly elected official to swear allegiance to the King rather than the country, province, and community from whence elected; and

WHEREAS the province of Quebec recently tabled Bill 4, which would amend the Constitution Act of 1867 and result in abolishing the requirement for elected officials to swear an oath to the King before they can take their seats in the legislature.

THEREFORE the Council of the Town of Prescott requests that the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing consider amending the Ontario *Municipal Act* by removing Section 4 from the Declaration of Office or making it optional; and

THAT a copy of the resolution be sent to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and all municipalities in Ontario.

**6. Presentations**

There were no presentations.

**7. Minutes of the previous Council meetings**

**7.1 February 6, 2023**

Motion 41-2023

Moved By Burton

Seconded By Campbell

That the Council minutes dated February 6, 2023 be accepted as presented.

Carried

**8. Communications & Petitions**

**8.1 Town of Petrolia Resolution re: School Board Elections**

Matthew Armstrong, CAO/Treasurer, spoke to the resolution from the Town of Petrolia.

Discussion was held regarding the use of school property, the cost associated with school board elections, and potential effect on voter turnout.

Motion 42-2023

Moved by: Kirkby

Seconded by: Burton

That Council of the Town of Prescott support the Town of Petrolia's Resolution regarding School Board Elections.

Defeated

**8.2 Township of Lanark Highlands Resolution re: Violence Against Women**

Item 8.2 - Township of Lanark Highlands Resolution re: Violence Against Women was deferred to the meeting of March 6, 2023.

**8.3 Letter of Support Request - Prescott Curling Club**

Mayor Shankar spoke to the request from the Prescott Curling Club.

Motion 43-2023

Moved by: Shankar

Seconded by: Campbell

That Council direct Staff to prepare a letter of support for the Prescott Curling Club.

Carried

**9. Consent Reports**

Motion 44-2023

Moved By McConnell

Seconded By Lockett

That all items listed under the Consent Reports section of the agenda be accepted as presented.

Carried

### **9.1 Information Package (under separate cover)**

1. South Grenville Beacon article recognizing Prescott Crossing Guards
2. CSE Consulting Spring Job Fair Poster – March 9, 2023
3. Augusta Township Mayor's Breakfast 2023 – March 31, 2023
4. United Counties of Leeds & Grenville Media Release – February 13, 2023
5. Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit Board of Health Summary – January 26, 2023
6. House of Commons Update on Boundary Changes in Ontario from MP Michael Barrett – February 10, 2023
7. City of Brantford resolution re: Enhanced VIA Rail Services
8. Letter of Introduction to the ALUS Ontario East Program

Councillor Burton congratulated the Town's five crossing guards on their recognition from the Optimist Club.

### **10. Committee Reports**

There were no Committee Reports.

### **11. Mayor**

There was no discussion under the Mayor's portion of the agenda.

### **12. Outside Boards, Committees and Commissions**

There were no items under Outside Boards, Committees and Commissions.

### **13. Staff**

### **13.1 Staff Report 14-2023 - 2023 Community Awards**

Motion 45-2023

Moved By Kirkby

Seconded By McConnell

That Council direct Staff to proceed with the 2023 Community Awards as outlined in Staff Report 14-2023 Business, Citizen & Volunteer Awards recognition program.

Carried

Kaitlin Mallory, Deputy Clerk, spoke to report.

Discussion was held regarding options for submitting nominations, the use of past submissions, the costs associated with the award presentation ceremony, and the option of recognizing one category per year.

### **13.2 Staff Report 15-2023 - 2022 Prescott Drinking Water System and Wastewater System Annual Reports**

Motion 46-2023

Moved By Kirkby

Seconded By Burton

That Council accept the 2022 Prescott Drinking Water System and Wastewater System Annual Reports.

Carried

Matthew Armstrong, CAO/Treasurer spoke to report. He referenced the required annual reporting, ministry inspections, the drinking water system, the wastewater system, and past extreme weather events causing overflow.

### **13.3 2023 Project Ideas Priorities Review Presentation**

Matthew Armstrong, CAO/Treasurer, spoke to a PowerPoint presentation. A copy of the presentation is held on file.

Mr. Armstrong provided an overview of the previously approved and in-progress projects.

Discussion was held regarding the use of food recyclers in the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal and the downtown parkettes.

Further discussion was held regarding repairs to the parking area at the end of Centre Street, the replacement of the pavilion at Kelly's Beach, and timeline for implementing the Recreation Committee.

#### **13.4 2023 Operational Budget - February 27, 2023**

Matthew Armstrong, CAO/Treasurer, spoke to a PowerPoint presentation. A copy of the presentation is held on file. Mr. Armstrong referenced the expenses and revenue for each department, and the total operations revenues not including property taxes. He spoke to the assessment changes year over year, tax ratios, provided the 2023 tax ratios, and provided examples of property tax amounts for each property tax class based on a 3.5% increase.

Discussion was held regarding marina fees increasing incrementally with inflation.

Mr. Armstrong spoke to the Recreation Complex and the impact to the budget. He referenced the suggested fees and the recruitment of staff.

Discussion was held regarding the Township of Augusta's contribution to the recreation complex, the current number of full-time operations staff, and the responsibilities of a full-time cleaner.

Further discussion was held regarding the ability to lower the potential tax increase of 3.5%.

#### **14. Resolutions**

There were no resolutions.

#### **15. By-laws**



There were no by-laws.

**16. Notices of Motion**

There were no Notices of Motion.

**17. Mayor's Proclamation**

There was no Mayoral Proclamation.

**18. Period for Media Questions**

Ron Zajac, Recorder & Times, asked for clarification on the suggested 3.5% increase to municipal property taxes, if the 1% dedicated infrastructure amount was for the water tower, and when the budget was expected to be adopted.

Matthew Armstrong, CAO/Treasurer, provided clarity regarding the tax increase due to no increase in education tax, that the infrastructure fund was for all infrastructure and that the targeted date for final adoption of the budget was in April.

Ron Zajac left meeting at 8:09 p.m.

**19. Closed Session**

Motion 47-2023

Moved By Campbell

Seconded By Lockett

That Council enter into Closed Session at 8:10 p.m. to discuss matters pertaining to:

19.1 Approval of Closed Session minutes (February 6, 2023)

19.2 Purchase & Sale

- Under Section 239(2)(c) of the *Municipal Act* - a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board; and

### 19.3 Identifiable Individual

- Under Section 239(2)(b) of the *Municipal Act* - personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees; and

That the CAO/Treasurer, Clerk, Economic Development Officer, and Deputy Clerk remain in the room.

Carried

### Motion 48-2023

Moved By Campbell

Seconded By McConnell

That Council reconvene in Open Session. (Time: 8:43 p.m.)

Carried

## 20. Rise and Report

During the Closed Session, Council approved the Closed Session minutes dated February 6, 2023, received information and provided Staff direction on Item 19.2 - Purchase & Sale Matters and Item 19.3 - Identifiable Individual.

## 21. Confirming By-Law – 08-2023

### Motion 49-2023

Moved By Burton

Seconded By Campbell

That By-Law 08-2023, being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of the Council meeting held on February 27, 2023, be read and passed, signed by the Mayor and Clerk, and sealed by the seal of the Corporation.

Carried

## 22. Adjournment

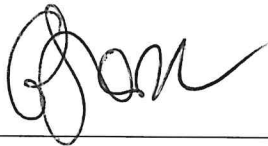
### Motion 50-2023

Moved By Kirkby  
Seconded By Lockett

That the meeting be adjourned to Monday, March 6, 2023. (Time: 8:43 p.m.)

Carried

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Mayor



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Clerk

