



MINUTES

A public meeting of the Placentia Council was held December 20, 2022 in the Council Chambers with the following in attendance:

Council

Mayor: Keith Pearson
Deputy Mayor: Wayne Power
Councillors: Jamilee Fitzpatrick
Kay Smith
Mike Williams
Gerard Wilson

Staff

Jonathan Galgay, CAO
Mary Greene, Manager of Finance
Kathryn Smith, Executive Assistant (R)

Spectators: Zero (0)

Regrets: Councillor Jennifer Richardson Power

Mayor Pearson called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The agenda was circulated prior to the meeting.

Motion #22-253

Deputy Mayor Power/Councillor Williams

Be it resolved that the agenda for the Council meeting held December 20, 2022 is adopted. (CARRIED UNANIMOUS)

Motion #22-254

Councillor Smith/Councillor Wilson

Be it resolved that the minutes of November 15, 2022 are adopted as circulated. (CARRIED UNANIMOUS)

New Business

PORT OF ARGENTIA UPDATE

- The Port is actively pursuing aquaculture opportunities in Argentia
- The transfer of land waterways in Argentia has been completed with the Federal government. There have been 700 hectares of water lots identified in Argentia harbour
- Boskolis and subcontractors are moving ahead with developing berms
- The Port is pursuing development of the school base
- Cenevous is in operation and work is ongoing

Amendment of Motion #22-250:

Motion #22-250

Councillor Wilson/Councillor Williams

Be it resolved that the motion to approve the purchase of playground equipment at a cost of up to \$95,000 is adopted. Cost will be applied against current gas tax funding. (CARRIED UNANIMOUS)

Motion #20-252

Councillor Wilson/Councillor Fitzpatrick

Be it resolved that the motion to approve Change Order #5 for Project #17-MYCW-20-00100 to purchase a second Internet Client License to allow iPads to be connected to the SCADA system at the same time is adopted. (CARRIED UNANIMOUS)

Motion #22-255

Councillor Williams/Councillor Smith

Be it resolved that the motion to approve that the Town of Placentia submit its Capital Investment Plan to the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Municipalities for Gas Tax Funding in the amount of \$115,500 plus HST for the Fort Frederick Capital Investment Plan is adopted. (CARRIED UNANIMOUS)

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

(Councillor Kay Smith, Chair; Deputy Mayor Wayne Power, Councillor Jennifer Power; Resource Person-Mgr. of Finance)

The Finance Committee had the following recommendations:

Motion #22-256

Councillor Smith/Councillor Wilson

Be it resolved that the motion to approve payment of invoice from Crane Supply in the amount of \$5,547.61 including HST for water and sewer supplies is adopted. (CARRIED UNANIMOUS)

Motion #22-257

Councillor Smith/Deputy Mayor Power

Be it resolved that the motion to approve payment of invoice from Devan Holdings Inc. in the amount of \$6,193.90 including HST for winter tires for four Public Works vehicles is adopted. (CARRIED UNANIMOUS)

Motion #22-258

Councillor Smith/Councillor Williams

Be it resolved that the motion to approve the remaining Accounts Payable Transaction Journal dated December 12, 2022 in the amount of \$25,361.90 is adopted. (CARRIED UNANIMOUS)

Motion #22-259

Councillor Smith/Councillor Williams

Be it resolved that the motion to approve the Cheque Register for the Operating Account in the amount of \$238,686.70 for cheques numbered 030779 to 030961 is adopted. (CARRIED UNANIMOUS)

Motion #22-260

Councillor Smith/Councillor Fitzpatrick

Be it resolved that the motion to approve the Cheque Register for the Special Accounts in the amount of \$1,290,798.31 is adopted. (CARRIED UNANIMOUS)

Motion #22-261

Councillor Smith/Councillor Wilson

Be it resolved that the motion to approve visa statements dated October 28 to November 28, 2022 in the amount of \$12,534.81 is adopted. (CARRIED UNANIMOUS)

Motion #22-262

Councillor Smith/Councillor Wilson

Be it resolved that the motion to approve a one-time interest forgiveness to source #133039 in the amount of \$144.42 is adopted. The account is paid in full. (CARRIED UNANIMOUS)

Motion #22-263

Councillor Smith/Deputy Mayor Power

Be it resolved that the motion to approve a one-time interest forgiveness to source #134475 in the amount of \$615 is adopted. The account is paid in full. (CARRIED UNANIMOUS)

Motion #22-264

Councillor Smith/Councillor Fitzpatrick

Be it resolved that the motion to approve a one-time interest forgiveness to source #135057 in the amount of \$206.01 is adopted. The account is paid in full. (CARRIED UNANIMOUS)

Motion #22-265

Councillor Smith/Deputy Mayor Power

Be it resolve that the motion to approve business tax credit to account #BEAU0001 for 5 years in business as budgeted for the Business Tax Incentive Program is adopted. (CARRIED UNANIMOUS)

Councillor Fitzpatrick declared conflict and left the meeting for the next motion due to family relation

Motion #22-266

Councilor Smith/Councillor Williams

Be it resolved that the motion to approve a temporary contractual agreement with Provincial Ready Mix for a monetary increase of \$4,000 to help alleviate fuel surcharge during December 2022 & January 2023 under the Multi-Stream Waste Collection contract is adopted. (CARRIED UNANIMOUS)

Councillor Fitzpatrick returned to the meeting



Budget Presentation 2023 **Delivered by Finance Chair Councillor Kay Smith**

Good evening, Mayor Pearson, fellow Councillors, Town staff and welcome to all residents present in the gallery and those who have joined us virtually for the 2023 Budget Presentation. I am pleased to be delivering my sixth budget presentation as Chair of the Finance Committee of the Town of Placentia. I would like to thank residents that have contributed to the budget consultation and presented views to help prioritize spending for the 2023 fiscal year.

As in previous years, Council and staff have worked diligently to prepare this budget and we are pleased to announce that we have met our planned goals and objectives for 2022, including a collection rate of more than 90%. In spite of inflated operating costs due to the current economic climate, I am very happy to report that Council has achieved a balanced budget without an increase to taxes this year to either the mil rate or to water and sewer rates for residential or business properties. Our Tax Structure will reflect some minor changes that include:

- 1. an increase to Tax Certificate and Compliance Letters with a charge of \$175;*
- 2. Water Turn-On Fee with a charge of \$50;*
- 3. Residential Water and Sewer (new) Connection rate increases to \$175 and Commercial Water Connection rate increases to \$400;*
- 4. After Hours Call Out Fees for non-emergency issues has increased to \$200 residential and to \$300 commercial;*
- 5. Council is also introducing a fee for requests for Tax information at a charge of \$50.*

In keeping with the CUPE Local 1761 Union Agreement, Firefighters and Council will fall in line with an increase in remuneration for their services.

2022 has been a significant year for infrastructure upgrades and project approvals. An outstanding achievement is the completion of the Multi Year Capital Works project to connect Gull and Barron's Ponds to the Clarke's Pond water supply and to upgrade the Clarke's Pond pumphouse. Council remains committed to ensuring safe and clean drinking water for all residents. We will be pursuing further partnerships with the Federal and Provincial Governments to achieve this goal.

The project to install a new Blivet in Southeast has been completed and is a much-needed service for existing and growing residential developments in Southeast. For those of you that don't know, the Blivet is a treatment facility processing sewer before it reaches an outfall. The total cost of this project was \$792,468.

The Town has completed installation of the Supervisory Control & Data Acquisition System (SCADA for short) at a cost of \$420,995. SCADA is a software collecting data system that enables water and sewer infrastructure monitoring in real time. Providing public works staff with instant notification of problems at any pump station enables immediate response. The

Public Works & Public Safety Committee has been working closely with Council to secure numerous Capital Works projects which I will highlight later.

Council has also engaged engineers to assess the condition of the Freshwater Brook, as well as the Placentia Wave Wall to determine structural stability with consideration of Climate Change and rising water levels. Council will be pursuing the Provincial and Federal Governments for funding partnerships to complete these projects.

Council is aware of the importance of emergency preparations and has adopted a revised Town of Placentia Municipal Emergency Management Plan.

The Placentia Volunteer Fire Department falls under the purview of the Public Works & Public Safety Committee. Safety of firefighters and residents is a number one priority to Council; therefore, the Fire Department has updated their Standard Operating Policy & Procedures Manual following provincial guidelines. Council recognizes the importance of providing Firefighters with up-to-date equipment to ensure protection of residents in the case of an emergency. During the 2022 fiscal year we commenced the construction of a new firefighting training facility in Argentia. Renovation work on the Fire Hall has been completed at no cost to taxpayers thanks to support of funds from the Department of Environment, Climate Change, and Municipalities Gas Tax program. Council approved the purchase of a commercial washer and dryer cabinet, an Apparatus Bay (Air Technology) Industrial Air Cleaner, five self-contained breathing apparatuses and personal protective firefighting equipment in addition to the annual operating budget. This year we awarded a tender to purchase a new fire rescue vehicle as per agreement with Fire and Emergency Services division of the Department of Justice and Safety; delivery should be made in 2023. This purchase is a significant one for the Fire Department and is based on a 70/30 cost share agreement at a total project cost of \$425,000 plus HST.

Recreation infrastructure is vital to community wellbeing. The commencement of the construction of the Placentia Regional Wellness Centre is a substantial milestone for our Town that we have worked towards for some time. It is vital to provide such services to provide residents and users from surrounding communities with the resources to help build a healthy lifestyle. When completed the Wellness Centre will have a pool, fitness room, and meeting space. The Wellness Centre will provide jobs boosting the local economy by supporting the community's business sector during ongoing construction.

The Planning, Development & Community Enhancement Committee have reviewed and approved approximately 80 permits for new residential and commercial developments throughout our town and at the Port of Argentia. The Municipal Enforcement Department has been successful in enforcing dilapidated regulations on a number of properties as well as having several dilapidated houses demolished and land restoration.

Come Home Year celebrations were a major event for our province during 2022. Council was pleased to support our Tourism & Economic Development and Marketing & Special Events Committees who; with assistance from the Public Works team, worked diligently with planning and organizing events. Much work was completed in the areas of community beautification, ad campaigns, and planning and implementing events to make Come Home Year in our

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community one of the most successful in the Province. Festivals and celebrations were welcomed throughout the summer after a two-year absence. The Town was pleased to contribute to the Freshwater Come Home Year event with monetary and in-kind contributions.

In addition to the Come Home Year events, other festivities this year included a Volunteer Recognition Luncheon, Business Recognition Awards, the Annual Placentia Regatta, Multi-Cultural Celebration, the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Tea Party, Voices of Placentia Bay Festival, Canada Day Celebration, Placentia Area Historical Society's 85th Anniversary, and Placentia Age Friendly, Wild Rose, and Year of the Garden events. The Town introduced a Voices Country Event with a pig roast and antique car show which was well attended by residents and will remain an annual event on the list of Town events. We are now closing off our community events calendar with the fabulous turn out to the Town's Light up the Square event and the Dunville Lions Club – Town of Placentia Annual Santa Claus Parade. Our Council recognizes the importance of all social events and remains a proud partner in making them a success and we thank our staff for such a tremendous team effort to ensure our residents have events like these that go a long way toward building community spirit.

The Executive and Finance Committees continue to work closely with all departments to ensure there are proper policies, procedures, staff, and funds in place to carry out Town operations. To implement plans and goals for setting the Town in the right direction, Council hired a new Chief Administrative Officer, Director of Public Works, and Public Works Operations Foreman to replace three staff who had vacated these positions in 2022. In addition, an Economic Development Officer has been hired to set the Town on the right path for economic growth and prosperity and an Events Assistant is engaged to assist with operations in the Placentia Bay Cultural Arts Centre.

The Port of Argentia has been a diversified economic contributor to our region over the decades with industrial operations. The Town is gratified with the announcement of an Option to Lease with Pattern Energy Group LP to advance the development of substantial multi-phase renewable energy initiatives at Argentia. The potential for a wind energy project and green gas export is major economic advancement for our area and the entire province. We are also very pleased that Cenovus Energy remains a resident in our community improving the economic climate of our municipality as do all tenants at the Argentia Industrial Park.

Key Elements of the 2023 Budget

Council will continue to focus on infrastructure projects throughout the 2023 fiscal year with the continuance and/or completion of the following Multi-Year Capital Works projects:

- Repair of the Freshwater Sewer Outfall at a cost of \$435,000
- Upgrades to the Regatta Grounds Lift Station at a cost of \$211,000
- Improvements to the Harbour Drive Storm Sewer System at a cost of \$736,000
- Station Road Erosion Control at a cost of \$639,411
- Jersey Side Wave Wall Repair at a cost of \$800,000 (Hurricane Larry Storm Damage Repair)

- *Storm Water Assessment & Repair Project for the flats of Jersey side at a cost of \$1,998,772*
- *Harbour Drive Upgrades & Walkway project at a cost of \$285,000*

It is always a pleasure to report that Council staff have been very diligent in securing funding for these projects most of which are 80% covered by other levels of government or through Gas Tax Funding and one of which is totally funded by the Disaster Assistance Funding Program. This means that there is minimal cost to the taxpayers of the Town of only 20% of the overall amount.

The Town has made application to the federal government for the continuation of the Freshwater Water Line project to upgrade service lines in Freshwater at a cost of \$5,000,000. Council has also submitted an application for the next phase for the Dunville Water Line at a cost of six million six hundred thousand dollars (\$6,600,000.) If successful, approximately 300 service line upgrades in Dunville will be completed and the project will include new pavement through Route 100 Dunville.

Council has committee to playground infrastructure as recommended by the Recreation Committee with the approval of up to \$95,000 in playground equipment pending approval from Gas Tax Funding. There is funding allocated for other playground and softball field improvements.

The Tourism Department continues to lobby the government for the approval of the Town Square Legacy Garden project which will enhance the Town Square with the inclusion of a community stage and upgrades to existing infrastructure. This age friendly initiative will enhance socialization and community gatherings and improve the quality of life and community spirit for our residents.

Council will continue to reward our residential property owners for their support of Council initiatives. This will be achieved by continuing to offer the 10% discount for all property owners if their account is paid in full by May 3rd.

Council also recognizes the importance of local businesses initiatives in our Town and appreciates owner/operators' long-term dedication to successful ventures in our community. In acknowledgement and as a sign of appreciation, the Business Incentive program will continue in the 2023 fiscal year.

Budget 2023 will be the last budget to follow the current Strategic Plan (2010 revision). Council and staff will continue to work towards creating a new Strategic Plan that defines the Town's vision for the future through identifying current day objectives and goals, which will be implemented in 2024.



Council reaffirms its commitment to:

- Enhance the quality of life for residents, businesses, and visitors;
- Focus on delivering core municipal services;
- Enhance economic development through marketing strategies geared towards industrial and business development in Placentia;
- Promote tourism development and market our community.

Your Worship, the following is the January 1st to December 31st, 2023 budget presented to Council for approval:

Department	Expense
General Government	1,065,988
Protective Services	215,278
Transportation	1,151,548
Environmental Health	981,318
Planning & Development	77,987
Recreation & Culture	521,872
Engagement & Economic Development	119,631
Debt Services	743,384
Capital	2,570,733.69
	\$7,447,739.69

Motion #22-267

Councillor Smith/Deputy Mayor Power

Be it resolved that the motion to adopt the 2023 Budget in the amount of Seven Million, four hundred and forty-seven thousand, seven hundred and thirty-nine dollars and sixty-nine cents is adopted. (CARRIED UNANIMOUS)

Motion #22-268

Councillor Smith/Councillor Williams

Be it resolved that the motion to approve the 2023 Tax Structure for the fiscal year January 1 to December 31, 2023 as presented and reviewed by Council is adopted. (CARRIED UNANIMOUS)

Thank you, Mayor and Council, for your indulgence and a special thank you to all Council, staff and residents involved in the development of the budget presented here tonight.



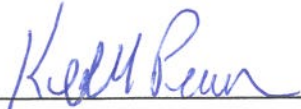
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Mayor called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

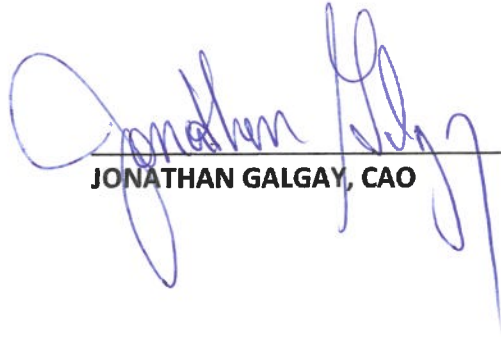
Motion #22-269

Deputy Mayor Power/Councillor Williams

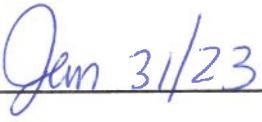
Be it resolved that the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. is adopted. (CARRIED UNANIMOUS)



KEITH PEARSON, MAYOR



JONATHAN GALGAY, CAO



DATE

