

MINUTES

MARCH 8, 2022

GRAND FALLS

MEETING

A regular meeting of the Town Council of Grand Falls, New Brunswick was held at the municipal building in the Roland Lafrance Room beginning at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 8, 2022, following notices as required by law.

ATTENDANCE

His Worship the Mayor:

Marcel Deschênes

Councillors :

Annie Deschênes

Jean Maurice Gagnon

Jocelyn "Joe" Themens

David Raines

Renaud Ouellette

As well as Acting CAO/Clerk Éric Gagnon and administrative assistant Sophie Marceau.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Deschênes welcomes everyone and asks for a moment of silence following the death of Mr. Everard Daigle and for all those affected by the war happening in Ukraine the past 3 weeks.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflicts are reported.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Annie Deschênes / Jean Maurice Gagnon,

2022-024 That the agenda be accepted as presented. Carried

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

David Raines / Joe Themens,

2022-025 That the minutes of February 8, 2022, be adopted by Town Council as received. Carried

DRINKING WATER

7 samples have been taken in 7 different zones since the last public meeting. The Town's drinking water report received shows acceptable results. Carried

Renaud Ouellette / Annie Deschênes,

2022-026 that the drinking water tests be received and filed. Carried

MOTIONS AND COMMITTEE RECORDS

POLICE

Many road checks occurred in January and February in Grand Falls and Drummond. Nearly 200 tickets were issued for various traffic violations. The police force asks the population to clean their vehicles/windshields well before leaving the house to keep everyone safe following a storm since many tickets are being issued for this reason. Constable Daniel Levesque participated in a segment on the local radio on February 9 discussing the ongoing catalytic converter thefts in the region and gave helpful tips on how people can protect themselves. Two members of the force went to Fredericton to provide support during the Freedom Convoy.

Bernard Albert – retirement

Jean Maurice Gagnon/Annie Deschênes,

2022-027 That Town Council accepts the retirement notice from Bernard Albert dated March 15, 2022. Carried

COMMUNICATION

Councillor Deschênes invites the public to see the press release on the website and Facebook page regarding the 2021 projects and upcoming ones planned for 2022.

LIBRARY

A new collection of skates of all sizes and safety equipment are now available to rent for free at the library and the public is welcome to take advantage of it for a family activity during spring break. We invite the public to visit the library to pick up a kit with everything needed to try out science experiments with their families at home. In addition, children are invited to the Science Saturday where they can witness scientific experiments.

Free income tax filing service for people with low-income is back this year. Contact the library to make an appointment.

ADMINISTRATION / HUMAN RESOURCES

Employee Bonding

Annie Deschênes/Jean Maurice Gagnon,

2022-028 That the Grand Falls Town Council adopt the document showing the employee bonding as received from Archway Insurance as well as policy no. CP80469 as of December 31, 2021. Carried

The CAO explains that this policy is required by the province to protect employees if there are fraudulent activities that could cause issues for the municipality.

Council Committees – modifications

Annie Deschênes/Renaud Ouellette,

2022-029 That the new list of representatives for the various committees of town council be accepted as follows:

FINANCE / ECONOMICAL DEVELOPMENT	Marcel Deschênes
PUBLIC WORKS	Renaud Ouellette
POLICE AND PUBLIC SECURITY	Jean Maurice Gagnon
FIRE DEPARTMENT	David Raines
RECREATION, TOURISM AND CULTURE (Tourisme, CEPSC, Sports)	Jocelyn Themens
ADMINISTRATION, HUMAN RESOURCES AND COMMUNICATION	Annie Deschênes
ENVIRONMENT	Jocelyn Themens
MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS	David Raines
EMERGENCY MEASURES	Marcel Deschênes Renaud Ouellette

Farmers' Market	Renaud Ouellette
Special events	David Raines
Library	Annie Deschênes
Community Health Committee	David Raines / Annie Deschênes
Chamber of Commerce	David Raines
Downtown	David Raines
AFMNB	Marcel Deschênes/ Renaud Ouellette
UMNB	Marcel Deschênes
NWRSC	Marcel Deschênes / Renaud Ouellette
Golf (member of the board of directors)	Jocelyn Themens
Golf (member of the doard of directors)	Jean Maurice Gagnon

Vaccination policy – 2021-02 (R1)

Annie Deschênes/Jean Maurice Gagnon,

**2022-030 That Vaccination Policy # 2021-02 be abolished effective March 14, 2022.
Carried**

Technologue

Annie Deschênes/Jocelyn Themens,

**2022-031 That Yanik Michaud be hired as a technologist for the Grand Falls Public Works Department on a salary basis according to the pre-established salary scale and with benefits according to Policy 2006-10, working conditions.
Carried**

Soutien administratif temporaire

Annie Deschênes/David Raines,

- 2022-032 That Mirela Leibovici be hired as a temporary administrative support in the Land Use Planning department at the salary according to the pre-established salary scale and with benefits according to Policy 2006-10, working conditions. Carried.

Facility Rental and Youth Program Coordinator

Annie Deschênes/Jean Maurice Gagnon,

- 2022-033 That Stéphanie Pelletier be hired as Facility Rental and Youth Program Coordinator at the salary according to the pre-established salary scale and with benefits according to policy 2006-10, working conditions. Carried.

Planning Officer

Annie Deschênes/Renaud Ouellette,

- 2022-034 That Stéphane Devost be hired as a planning officer and GIS specialist in the Land Use Planning Service at the salary according to the pre-established salary scale and with benefits according to policy 2006-10, working condition. Carried

Mayor Deschênes takes the opportunity to wish a happy International Women's Day and highlights the municipal employees in the room tonight.

TRAVAUX PUBLICS

The snow removal off fire hydrants is underway. A water break occurred on Chapel Street and a lateral water pipe had to be repaired. A pipe was also frozen on Broadway Boulevard.

Councillor Ouellette apologizes for the streets that were icier last weekend. This was due to a lack of salt in the province. We need to minimize the use of salt to get enough for the rest of the winter season. The widening snowblower is being repaired in Fredericton.

Councillor Ouellette asks the public to be vigilant about potholes in the municipality. The temperature that varies constantly makes it difficult to repair the holes so everyone's patience is appreciated.

Planning for the capital budget will begin shortly. Councillor Ouellette welcomes new technologist Yanik Michaud.

FARMERS' MARKET

Councillor Ouellette will attend the committee's first meeting of the year tomorrow evening, March 9.

SENIORS ASSOCIATION

The seniors' association will meet on March 23 to organize a day and hear out ideas for activities to help reduce the isolation of seniors due to the pandemic.

Maritime Enforcement Services Inc.

Renaud Ouellette/Annie Deschênes,

- 2022-035 That Grand Falls Town Council retain the services of Maritime Enforcement Services Inc. with respect to the property at 136 Broadway Boulevard for \$5,000 plus tax. Carried

136 boulevard Broadway - nomination, Agent chargé de l'exécution des arrêtés

Renaud Ouellette/Annie Deschênes,

2022-036 **CONSIDERING THAT** the municipal council has adopted various municipal by-laws;

AND CONSIDERING THAT Council may appoint officers responsible for the execution of local government orders and set their mandate terms;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following persons be appointed as enforcement officers of local government orders in accordance with the Local Governance Act (Act) and its regulations, the Police Act, the Planning Act and its regulations, and the Building Code Administration Act and its regulations:

Jordan NOWLAN, Nicholas HUDSON, Daniel LACOURSE & Roman JOHNSTON.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED THAT the above appointments include the powers and functions prescribed by the by-law, the Act, the regulations of the Act, the Police Act and any other Acts and regulations of the Province of New Brunswick.

AND THAT the position of officer in charge of the execution of the by-laws is used for the preservation and maintenance of public peace within the limits of the local government;

AND THAT the officer in charge of the execution of local government by-laws executes his discretion according to the records from the clerk or patrols in the local government;

AND THAT the above appointments continue as long as the people are retained by the local government.

Bad debts 2021

Renaud Ouellette/David Raines,

2022-037 That an amount of \$751.16 be provisioned in the accounts receivable of the general operating fund for the year 2021.

That an amount of \$17,374.10 be provisioned in the accounts receivable of the water and sewer operation fund for the year 2021. Carried

Fire protection – cost of water

Renaud Ouellette/Annie Deschênes,

2022-038 That the amount for the cost of water for fire protection be reduced from \$100,000 to \$50,000 for the year 2021. Adopted

SPECIAL EVENTS

Councilor Raines confirms that the Potato Festival will move forward and that ticket sales have increased since the announcement of the lifting of restrictions.

The planning process is underway for the return of the truck and tractor pull this year.

DOWNTOWN BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

There will be the return of live music on Broadway Boulevard once a week starting this spring/summer through the fall and other activities on Broadway including an Easter scavenger hunt.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

A promotion of gift certificates is launched in the region to support local businesses. Merchants are invited to contact the Valley Chamber of Commerce to participate.

FIRE

Work on the new fire station has resumed and is progressing very well. The station should be ready in the fall.

The hiring process for a deputy Fire Chief went very well. Councilor Raines says the brigade is strong and in good hands and there were great candidates for the position.

Deputy Fire Chief

David Raines/Joe Themens,

2022-39 That Aldéo Cyr be named Deputy Fire Chief for a term of three years in accordance with By-law 75 and its amendments. Carried

Aldéo Cyr shares thanks and enthusiasm for his new position as Deputy Fire Chief and congratulates former Deputy Chief Yvon Pelletier on his 32 years of service and 18 years as Deputy Chief.

RECREATION, TOURISM AND CULTURE

The outdoor rink and Grand Tube are open during spring break and there will be free skating in the Centre. People are asked to check the schedules on our Facebook pages or contact the CEPS.

The opening dates for tourist centers and camping for the 2022 season are as follows:

Malabean Center – May 16 to October 10

La Rochelle Center – June 27 to September 2

Falls and Gorge Campground – June 13 to September 18 (269 stays are currently booked for the camping season)

Frost Day on February 20 was a big hit and even attracted people from outside the region. We thank the volunteers who made this day a great success as well as a special thank you to Andrew and Cheryl Toner for the free coffee, hot chocolate and Timbits.

The golf season is scheduled to begin on May 17 and people are advised of a \$50 increase in regular dues fees. Early bird fees are available until May 1st. In the near future, the Grand Golf Gazette will release a publication with plenty of information about the Grand Golf and its 2022 season.

FINANCE

The accountants are currently at City Hall to do their audit for the 2021 year and it should be completed in about a week followed by a presentation at the public meeting in April or May when the accountants' reports are completed.

LOCAL GOVERNANCE REFORM

The Mayor informs citizens of the new regional entity's name: The Regional Municipality of Grand Falls, which will count 11,000 residents (Grand Falls, Drummond, Saint-André, LSD's of Grand Falls and Drummond) and will have a tax base of 1.2 billion. The new municipality will be governed by a 10-member council, including nine councilors divided into five wards and one mayor. Each community will maintain its identity and the addresses will remain as they are. Discussions are constructive and will continue in the coming months to meet the technical implemented schedule. A CAO-Clerk will be appointed in September and the election for the new entity will be on November 28.

STARTED BUSINESS

By-law 87 – garbage collection and disposal

The administrative assistant proceeds with the third reading of By-law 87. We dispense with the full reading considering the notices posted under subsection 15(3) of the Local Governance Act.

Renaud Ouellette / Annie Deschênes,

2022-40 that Town Council adopts the third reading of By-law 87, a municipal by-law respecting the collection and disposal of garbage as read. Carried

NEW BUSINESS

By-law 57 – modification 2022-01 – remuneration (1st & 2nd readings)

The administrative assistant proceeds with the first two readings of By-law 57. We dispense with the full reading considering the notices posted under subsection 15(3) of the Local Governance Act.

Joe Themens / David Raines,

That Grand Falls City Council adopt first reading of By-law 57 Amendment 2022-01, a by-law of the Town of Grand Falls respecting the remuneration of the Mayor and Councilors, as read. Carried

Joe Themens / David Raines,

That Grand Falls City Council adopt second reading of By-law 57, Amendment 2022-01, a by-law of the Municipality of Grand Falls respecting the remuneration of the Mayor and Councilors, as read. Carried

By-law 1900 – Amendment 2022-15 – NID 65001711 (1st reading)

The CAO explains to the public the reason for the amendment to By-law 1900.

The administrative assistant proceeds with the first reading in title of By-law 1900. We dispense with the full reading considering the notices posted under subsection 15(3) of the Local Governance Act.

Jean Maurice Gagnon / Renaud Ouellette,

That Grand Falls Town Council adopt the first reading of By-law 1900 Amendment 2022-15, a by-law amending the Grand Falls Zoning By-Law, as read. Carried

OTHER – interventions by council, public and media

- intervention of the council

Thanks

Grade 8 classes at the Polyvalente Thomas-Albert sent a thank you letter for the support given during the preparation of their winter carnival. Councillor Deschênes congratulates Julie-Christine Fortier and Julie Bossé for this great initiative and for organizing a great activity for the community during Family Day.

The Mayor takes the opportunity to thank the Chief of Police and her team as well as all first responders for their dedication and hard work throughout the pandemic.

-public intervention

David Côté

Mr. Côté shares his concerns about the access to the lot next to his property. The CEO states that the lot had a re-zoning prior to the issuance of a permit and any other questions can be answered by contacting the Land Use Planning department during working hours when they have the file in hand.

Ghislain Langlais

After reading the 2021-2022 highlights report, Mr. Langlais questions why there is no mention of the sports complex for the 2022 projects. The mayor reassures him by indicating that a plan for the exterior of the building is made and the mechanic aspect of the bowling alley has been checked and a report will be sent to our engineering firm shortly. An interior renovation is needed in the other section of the building where the Town would like to make a new movie theatre. With the ongoing study of the building and with the grant applications made, the mayor hopes that work can begin in the near future.

ADJOURNMENT

Joe Themens/Jean-Maurice Gagnon, moved the closing of the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Carried

Marcel Deschênes
Mayor

Eric Gagnon
Clerk