

MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 14, 2021

GRAND FALLS

MEETING

A regular meeting of the Grand Falls Town Council was held at the Municipal Building in the Roland Lafrance Room beginning at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 14, 2021, following the notices required by law. This meeting is streamed live on the municipal Facebook page.

PRESENCE

His Honour the Mayor:

Marcel Deschênes

Councillors:

Renaud Ouellette
Jean Réal Michaud
Jean Maurice Gagnon

Annie Deschênes
David Raines
Jocelyn « Joe » Themens

as well as the CAO-Clerk, Peter Michaud and the Deputy Clerk, Lise J. Ouellette.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Deschênes welcomes everyone.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflicts are reported.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Renaud Ouellette/Annie Deschênes,

2021-049 That the agenda is accepted as presented. Carried

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

Joe Themens/ Jean Réal Michaud,

2021-050 That the minutes of the July 13, 2021, meeting, copies of which have been distributed to the members of Council, be adopted as received. Carried

DRINKING WATER

All potable water analyses since the last meeting show « potable water » results.

Jean Maurice Gagnon/Renaud Ouellette,

2021-051 That the drinking water tests be received and filed. Carried

MOTIONS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC WORKS

Councillor Gagnon will visit the service's facilities in the next few weeks since this is his new committee.

Mechanic – hiring

Jean Maurice Gagnon / Annie Deschênes,

- 2021-052 That Jody Russell be hired as a mechanic in the Public Works Department at wages and benefits according to the collective agreement between local 886 and the Town of Grand Falls. Carried

Director of Public Works – resignation

Jean Maurice Gagnon / Renaud Ouellette,

- 2021-053 That the Grand Falls Town Council accepts the resignation of Daniel Laforge from the position of Director of Public Works effective September 1, 2021. Carried

COMMUNICATIONS

A lot of work has been done with the Administration on communication. Strategies will be developed, and the public is invited to give suggestions for improvement.

ADMINISTRATION/ HUMAN RESOURCES

Planning Advisory Committee – appointment

Joe Themens/Jean Réal Michaud,

- 2021-054 That Michèle Gagnon be appointed to sit on the Planning Advisory Committee for a three-year term. Carried

Jamie Maurice Michaud and Gestion Ouellette Ltée. – Zoning and Municipal Plan amendments

Joe Themens/David Raines,

- 2021-055 That Council publish a notice on its website and Facebook page under section 25 of the *Planning Act* indicating its intention to amend the municipal plan in order to change the future land use of two parcels with PID 35369750 and 35369834. The first parcel is partly owned by Gestion Ouellette Ltée., and the second is owned by Jamie Maurice Michaud. Both parcels are located on McCormick Street in Grand Falls, NB.

For the purposes of the municipal plan, future land use is changed as follows:

- Modify the future land use of a parcel of land bearing the PID 35369750, from Residential to Commercial.
- Modify the future land use of the parcel of land bearing the PID 35369834, from Commercial to Residential.

That Council meet in council chambers on Tuesday, October 12, 2021, at 7 p.m. for the public presentation of the proposed amendments.

That objections to the said draft order may be submitted in writing to the Council by sending them to the Clerk's office within thirty (30) days of the date of the public presentation.

That the Clerk, in the name and on behalf of the Council, publish public notices within the prescribed time, in accordance with the provisions of section 25 of the *Community Planning Act, 2017, Chapter 19*. Carried

Hermel and Tina Michaud – Zoning and Municipal Plan amendment

Joe Themens/Jean Réal Michaud,

2021-056 That Council publish a notice on its website and Facebook page under section 25 of the *Planning Act* indicating its intention to amend the municipal plan in order to change the future use of the land of part of the property bearing the PID 65229122 owned by Hermel and Tina Michaud and located at 74 Harrison Street in Grand Falls, NB.

For the purposes of the municipal plan, land use is proposed as follows:

- Modify the future land use of part of the land bearing the PID 65229122 from Commercial to Residential.

That Council meet in council chambers on Tuesday, October 12, 2021, at 7 p.m. for the public presentation of the proposed amendments.

That objections to the said draft order may be submitted in writing to the Council by sending them to the Clerk's office within thirty (30) days of the date of the public presentation.

That the Clerk, in the name and on behalf of the Council, publish public notices within the prescribed time, in accordance with the provisions of section 25 of the *Community Planning Act, 2017, Chapter 19*. Carried

J. D. Irving – zoning and municipal plan amendments

Joe Themens/David Raines,

2021-057 That Council publish a notice on its website and Facebook page under section 25 of the *Planning Act* indicating its intention to amend the municipal plan in order to change the future use of the land with PID 35323591 owned by J. D. Irving Limited and located at 88 Powers Street in Grand Falls, NB.

For the purposes of the municipal plan, future land use is changed as follows:

- Modify the future land use of a parcel of land bearing the PID 35323591, from Commercial to Industrial.

That Council meet in council chambers on Tuesday, October 12, 2021, at 7 p.m. for the public presentation of the proposed amendments.

That objections to the said draft order may be submitted in writing to the Council by sending them to the Clerk's office within thirty (30) days of the date of the public presentation.

That the Clerk, in the name and on behalf of the Council, publish public notices within the prescribed time, in accordance with the provisions of section 25 of the *Community Planning Act, 2017, Chapter 19*. Carried

HUMAN RESOURCES

Purchasing Policy – Agent

Annie Deschênes/Jean Maurice Gagnon,

- 2021-058 That amendment no. 8 to the Purchasing Policy (2004-02 R4) be adopted in order to appoint Danny Rossignol as agent. Carried**

MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE

Construction of the fire station is progressing well, and concrete is expected to be completed in the coming week. The Council offers its sympathies to the family of Brent White who has passed away. He was superintendent of the fire station construction.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Chamber received a grant under a federal program for its' gift card project. Strategic workshops are planned for next week. The new Chamber of Commerce office will be located on Portage Road. The yearly gala will take place on October 21 at the Golden Age Club.

FIRE

As mentioned by the Deputy Mayor, the construction of the fire station is progressing well. Delays for receiving certain building materials are foreseen.

RECREATION, TOURISM AND CULTURE

The Chamber of Commerce's golf tournament on August 20 was an exceptional success. Construction of the skateboard park was completed on August 21. Council asks for people's patience since the landscaping is not finished and the site remains a construction zone. Please respect the signs.

The Malabean Center and campground are closed. A total of 16,769 visitors registered at the center, an increase from 2020 but fewer than in 2019.

Winter sports registration began yesterday at the CEPSC. On September 18, Gérald Thériault will be inducted into the Grand Falls Sports Hall of Fame.

Golf – Board of Directors

Joe Themens / Jean Réal Michaud,

- 2021-059 That Mathieu Bourgoin be appointed to serve on the Board of Directors of the Grand Falls Golf Club. Carried**

POLICE

Improvements to the radio system are planned to match with other provincial agencies such as 911.

The police force is asking that drivers respect school buses.

David Roy – hiring

Jean Réal Michaud / Joe Themens,

- 2021-060 **That the Grand Falls Town Council appoints David Roy as a part-time police officer for the Grand Falls Police Force under subsection 11 of the Police Act with probation period and benefits under the collective agreement between the Town of Grand Falls and the Grand Falls Police Association. Carried**

Gabrielle Landry-Morneault – resignation

Jean Réal Michaud / David Raines,

- 2021-061 **The Grand Falls Town Council accepts the resignation of Gabrielle Landry-Morneault from the position of constable for the Grand Falls Police Force effective August 20, 2021. Carried**

Miss Landry-Morneault has resigned to accept a full-time job with the Sûreté du Québec.

FINANCE

The Mayor explains the borrowing process with the Province.
Work is progressing well at the fire station and on Broadway. Now we have to pay for these projects.
We will start the 2021 budget review in October.

Application for funding (fire station and Broadway)

Renaud Ouellette / Annie Deschênes,

- 2021-062 **That the Clerk, Treasurer or Mayor be authorized to issue and sell to the New Brunswick Municipal Finance Corporation, on behalf of the Town of Grand Falls, a debenture for the capital amount of \$1,407,000 on the conditions proposed by the Corporation and that it also be resolved that the Town of Grand Falls agree to issue post-dated cheques payable to the Municipal Finance Corporation of New Brunswick, in the form and on the required dates, in repayment of the principal and interest on the said debenture. Carried**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Marina

Council members received a lot of feedback following the special meeting regarding the marina. As promised, a committee will be set up to see to the future of the property.

OTHERS – Council, public and media interventions

- Council intervention

The Deputy Mayor reports on a tour of tourist attractions with the ‘Trotteuses’. A video of the tour will be available in 2022. He mentions that our region has a lot to offer despite its small population.

- Public intervention

Knights of Columbus

Guy Cyr – Mr. Cyr explains his frustration concerning the land that was leased to a nearby owner. He believes the Knights lost four parking spaces that made it easier for the elderly to access their hall. He asks that this be settled.

The Mayor assures that the Council is not against the Knights and gives a brief history of the land in question and the request received from the neighbour. The Mayor met with this person who holds a proper lease to propose an agreement that could satisfy all parties. Council is waiting for his/her answer. In the meantime, the Mayor asks that the group not issue further statements on this subject so as not to hinder the negotiation process.

Jerry Morin – Mr. Morin recounts the history of the building and finds the lack of communication sad. They need these parkings.

Martin Bérubé – This file has not been settled in four months. He asks that this be settled.

The Mayor thanked the Knights for their community service and reassured that they have the full support of Council.

David Côté

He questions a zoning change that took place in his neighbourhood.

Éric Gagnon, director of the Land Use Planning Department, confirms that the property has been re-zoned from R2B to R2C and offers a copy to Mr. Côté. He explains the difference between a variance and a re-zoning. Public notices only are done for zoning changes. There is no notice to nearby owners.

Rita Godbout

Ms. Godbout suggests a welcome kit for newcomers with additional information at the community level and on activities that are available. People missed the information for the Fête de l'Acadie celebrations that was posted on Facebook.

Councillor Gagnon mentioned that the Chamber of Commerce had several discussions about an information package but he does not know where the project is at.

Some information is available but could be improved.

Councillor Deschênes proposes to repeat the tour of the town that had been organized by the Rotary Club. She mentions that we will eventually have a newsletter for the municipality.

Town staff confirm that a kit exists and that real estate agencies have been asked to inform us when someone arrives from away. A few kits have been delivered.

David Olmstead proposes that the newsletter be distributed with the Info Weekend.

Micheline McClure

McClure says she had trouble finding information when she moved to the area. She questions whether we should transmit the information by signage, newsletter, kits or other since she no longer receives the newspaper.

The Mayor thanked her for her comments and welcomed her.

Questions on Facebook

A Tobique resident asks that Council recognise the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The Council will decide shortly.

ADJOURNMENT

Annie Deschênes /Jean Maurice Gagnon, that the meeting is adjourned at 8:20 p.m. Carried

Marcel Deschênes
Mayor

Lise J. Ouellette
Deputy Clerk