

**MONTAGUE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
FEBRUARY 13, 2006**

The regular meeting of the Town Council for the Town of Montague is hereby declared in session by Mayor Richard Collins this 13th day of February 2006 beginning at 7:00 pm.

Richard Collins, Mayor
John MacFarlane, Deputy Mayor
David Mabon, Councillor
Wilbur Naddy, Councillor
Peter Doucette, Councillor
Niall MacKay, Councillor
Rick Beck, Councillor

Staff: Robin Campbell, CAO

Welcome & Remarks

Mayor Collins called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Naddy
Seconded by Deputy Mayor MacFarlane
“That the agenda be approved as circulated.” Motion carried.

Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Deputy Mayor MacFarlane
Seconded by Councillor Doucette
“That the minutes of the regular meeting held on January 9, 2006 and special meetings held on January 24th and January 31st, 2006 be adopted as circulated with amendments on pages 1 & 3 of the January 9th regular meeting.” Motion carried.

Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

Payment of Accounts

Moved by Deputy Mayor MacFarlane
Seconded by Councillor Doucette
“That bills amounting to \$18,829.31 are hereby approved for payment from the Town General Account.” Motion carried

Moved by Deputy Mayor MacFarlane
Seconded by Councillor Doucette

“That bills amounting to \$4,544.32 are hereby approved for payment from the Water and Sewer Utility Account.” Motion carried.

Correspondence

1. Correspondence from the President of Holland College, Dr. Brian MacMillan, acknowledging Mayor Collins letter of welcome to the town.
2. Correspondence from John C. MacLean, Chair, 21 Hour Equipment Drive for the QE2 Hospital requesting the town to host a community fundraising event.
3. Memorandum from the Federation of PEI Municipalities with information about the annual meeting to be held in Souris on May 1st. The deadline for submitting resolutions is March 17th.
4. Letter from Barry and Nancy Beck requesting permission to leave the sign for “Beck’s Home Furnishings” near the Montague Bridge erected year round.

Action: Moved by Councillor Naddy
Seconded by Councillor Doucette
“That approval be given for this sign to remain year round.”

(Councillor Beck declared a conflict of interest and vacated his seat at the council table.)

Discussion: Councillor Mabon stated that the only consideration would be relating to snow removal. Councillor Doucette suggested that any damage would be the responsibility of the Beck’s.

Motion carried.

Public Input

Mayor Collins opened the floor for public input requesting those who wished to speak to use the podium and identify themselves.

Tom Rath, Chair of the Southern Kings and Queens Chamber of Commerce provided information about the organization and requested the Town to join. He stated that this was the only Chamber east of Charlottetown and in spite of its name, it is the voice of business in Eastern PEI. A name change is expected soon to reflect this. Mr. Rath stated that it was very important for the Town to become a member considering the Chamber is usually the first point of contact for tourism. The Chamber is not a sector based organization but is geographical in nature. The annual membership fee for the Town would be less than \$100. Benefits would include the opportunity to take advantage of member discounts, networking, and seminars.

Eleanor Sutherland spoke about the Town's web site and asked why it had not been updated. The CAO responded that he had submitted the updated information to the web hosting company, Timeless Technologies several months ago.

Action: Moved by Councillor Beck
Seconded by Councillor Doucette
"That we have a competition for local business to host the town's web site and provide the domain name and registration."
Motion carried.

Tom Rath again addressed Council and stated that Council should consider businesses from the surrounding areas and not limit the competition to only those located within the town boundaries. He stated that he was from outside town but was supportive of the town.

Following lengthy discussion regarding the meaning of the word "local", it was agreed to place the advertisement and review all proposals received.

Merrill Scott commented on the resolution regarding the infrastructure application to be considered later on the agenda. He explained that without this funding the project could not be supported by this area.

In response to a question from Councillor Naddy, Mr. Scott reported that he had visited 5 local communities and received favourable comments from them all. There have been no requests for funding presented to date.

Councillor Mabon suggested that perhaps Council should have a notice of motion before considering this resolution. From a personal viewpoint, he would feel better if the financing information could be discussed with Jim MacPhee. Councillor Mabon stated that he needed to have a better idea where the money was coming from.

Deputy Mayor MacFarlane stated that we should get the ball rolling on this project by submitting the application. Councillor MacKay stated that submitting the application does not commit the town to completing the project. Councillor Mabon again stated that the Council should be meeting with Jim MacPhee to get his opinion and determine where the town is heading financially. He also felt it was important to see how financially involved the surrounding communities want to get.

Merrill Scott stated that Councillor Mabon has received the same information as all other members. He also stated that the project would have to be scaled down if all required funding is not achieved.

Councillor Doucette commented that the points raised by Councillor Mabon were critical to the overall project, however, he felt comfortable voting for the resolution and suggested a meeting be held with Mr. MacPhee as soon after the public meeting as possible.

Following further discussion, Councillor Mabon stated that he would go along with submitting the application provided the meeting with Mr. MacPhee is held as soon as possible.

On another matter, **Merrill Scott** suggested that Council consider appointing a member to investigate the possibility of hiring a recreation director for the Town, or possibly in a sharing arrangement with other communities similar to the Bylaw Officer.

Notice of Motion

Councillor Doucette gave notice that he would bring some information to next Council meeting in relation to Communities in Bloom and a recommendation respecting participation in 2007.

Special Committee Report

Councillor Doucette reported that he and Deputy Mayor MacFarlane are meeting on a weekly basis. Although there is not much to report, the committee is trying to identify appropriate franchise possibilities and potential investors for the hotel project. He stated that the project was evolving as it should and he was hoping for a positive announcement by the fall.

CAO Report

A written report for the month of January was presented by the CAO Robin Campbell. There were two items requiring action by Council:

1. Removal of dead trees from the waterfront.

Moved by Councillor Naddy

Seconded by Deputy Mayor MacFarlane

“That permission be granted for the Maintenance Department to remove the dead trees from the waterfront property.” Motion carried. (It was noted that replacements should be planted in the spring.)

2. Development permit application from Kingsway Christian Fellowship for interior renovations (electrical, plumbing & kitchen cupboards)

Moved by Deputy Mayor MacFarlane

Seconded by Councillor Doucette

“That a permit be issued to Kingsway Christian Fellowship for interior renovations as noted on their application.” Motion carried.

Resolutions

Four resolutions were presented for Council consideration:

1. BE IT RESOLVED that Council approve second reading of the Town of Montague Zoning Bylaw No. 2006-01.

Moved by Councillor Naddy

Seconded by Councillor Doucette

Amendments:

Moved by Councillor MacKay

Seconded by Deputy Mayor MacFarlane

“That the Zoning Bylaw be amended by inserting a new clause as follows:

9.1.2 A development permit shall be required prior to the commencement of a home occupation.”

Discussion: Councillor MacKay stated this was for clarification only so there would be no misunderstanding on the need for a permit.
Motion carried by majority with Councillor Beck voting against.

Moved by Councillor Doucette
Seconded by Deputy Mayor MacFarlane
“That the Maximum Height of Main Building in sections 15.2.1; 16.2.1; 17.2.1 and 18.2.1 be changed to read 35 feet instead of 50 feet.”

Discussion: Councillor Doucette stated that this change was being brought forward following discussions with the Fire Department at which time Council was advised that we did not have the proper equipment to combat fires in building over 35 feet. There would be a tremendous cost involved in obtaining the required equipment.
Motion carried

Moved by Councillor Mabon
Seconded by Councillor Naddy
“That section 3.7.4 and 3.8.2.2 be amended to require notification of a rezoning or major variance application to be sent to property owners within **200 feet** of the subject property.”

Discussion: Councillor Mabon commented that the old bylaw required notification to property owners within 200 feet for rezonings and major variances and the new bylaw should have the same requirement.
Motion carried

The original resolution was reworded as follows to reflect the amendments to the zoning bylaw:

BE IT RESOLVED that Council approve second reading of the Town of Montague Zoning Bylaw No. 2006-01 with amendments to section 9.1.2; 15.2.1; 16.2.1; 17.2.1; 18.2.1; 3.7.4 and 3.8.2.2. Motion carried.

2. **WHEREAS** the Planning Board has completed its mandatory review of the Town of Montague Zoning Bylaw;

AND WHEREAS the proposed Zoning Bylaw No. 2006-01 was advertised and a public hearing held in accordance with the Planning Act;

AND WHEREAS the proposed bylaw was read and approved by Council on two occasions;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Zoning Bylaw No. 2006-01 be adopted as presented and amended.

Moved by Deputy Mayor MacFarlane
Seconded by Councillor Doucette
Motion carried.

3. **WHEREAS** the Montague and Area Canada Games 2009 Committee has been actively investigating the need for a new wellness centre for the town and surrounding area;

AND WHEREAS the committee is recommending the construction of a new facility to house an ice rink, walking track, public library and meeting rooms;

AND WHEREAS the Committee has determined the total capital cost of this facility to be approximately \$4.035 million;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Chief Administrative Officer for the Town of Montague be authorized to submit an application under the Canada-PEI Municipal Rural Infrastructure Program for funding assistance for the design and construction of a new \$4.035 million wellness centre.

Moved by Councillor Doucette
Seconded by Deputy Mayor MacFarlane
Motion carried.

4. **WHEREAS** transparency and openness are vital to the operation of the Town of Montague;

AND WHEREAS any business involving Town Council and it's decision making power should be conducted in an open and professional forum for all to scrutinize and be aware;

AND WHEREAS discussion and consideration of any information pertinent to the commitment of Town Council should be in writing, in appropriate form, necessary for future reference, discussion and understanding;

AND WHEREAS matters relating to an eight year old commitment have just come to light;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that all municipal affairs of the Montague Town Council be conducted in an open, ethical and transparent fashion, with proper documentation and record keeping necessary, such that council negotiations and ultimate decisions be evident and accountable to the citizens of Montague.

Moved by Councillor Doucette
Seconded by Deputy Mayor MacFarlane

Discussion: Councillor Doucette stated the reason for bringing this resolution forward was for one reason only and that is for Council to be open and above board in all its decisions, not only for Council but also for the awareness of the public.

Councillor Mabon stated that he certainly hoped this would be the case. He did not see the necessity for the resolution. When taking office, you swear an oath. Councillor Beck commented that he would like to think that we operate in a transparent manner and this resolution is nothing but a shot at a past council. Councillor Mackay agreed with comments made by Councillors Beck and Mabon.

The question was called.

FOR: Councillor Doucette, Deputy Mayor MacFarlane

AGAINST: Councillors Naddy, Beck, MacKay and Mabon

Motion defeated.

Adjournment

Moved by Deputy Mayor MacFarlane

Seconded by Councillor Doucette

“That the meeting be adjourned.” Motion carried

Meeting adjourned 8:40 pm.

Richard Collins, Mayor

Robin Campbell, CAO