

**MONTAGUE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
JUNE 12, 2006**

The regular meeting of the Town Council for the Town of Montague is hereby declared in session by Mayor Richard A. Collins this 12th day of June 2006 beginning at 7:00 pm.

Richard A. 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. He invited members of the gallery, who wished to do so, to address Council during the Public Input portion of the meeting. Mayor Collins extended congratulations to a member of the gallery, Malcolm Patterson, who recently celebrated his 80th birthday.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Deputy Mayor MacFarlane
Seconded by Councillor Doucette

“That the agenda be approved as circulated with the addition of Councillor Beck as item 11(a).” Motion carried.

Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Beck
Seconded by Councillor Naddy

“That the minutes of the regular meeting held on May 8, 2006 be adopted as circulated.”
Motion carried.

Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

Payment of Accounts

Moved by Councillor Naddy
Seconded by Councillor Doucette

“That bills amounting to \$6,993.33 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 \$7,907.87 are hereby approved for payment from the Water and Sewer Utility Account.” Motion carried.

Correspondence

1. Correspondence from the Children’s Wish Foundation with information regarding the annual “Run for Wishes” to be held August 2 – 5, 2006.

Discussion: Deputy Mayor MacFarlane commented that this was a very important event and suggested it be advertised on the Town sign.

2. Correspondence from Montague regional High School expressing thanks for advertising their recent musical on the town sign.

3. Correspondence from CAW-Canada asking for a letter supporting the union’s position against free trade talks with Korea.

Action: Moved by Councillor MacKay

Seconded by Deputy Mayor MacFarlane

“That the Montague Council support the position of CAW-Canada respecting free trade talks with South Korea.” Motion carried by majority, Councillor Beck voting against.

Presentations

David Boyce, Executive Director, Southeast Environmental Association gave a presentation on the various programs and activities in which they are involved. At the conclusion, he invited the Council to consider how the Town of Montague and SEA could work together to address some common concerns.

Don LeClere, Executive Director, PEI Active Living also addressed Council. In his presentation, Mr. LeClere provided information on the goals of PEI Active Living Alliance and encouraged the Town of Montague to make a commitment to become a PEI Active Community. Following his presentation, the CAO was asked to read a statement of commitment for Council consideration:

We, the community of Montague commit to becoming a PEI Active Community.

We will support the community champion and committee in all of their PEI Active community initiatives.

Action: Moved by Councillor Naddy

Seconded by Councillor MacKay

“That Council commit to becoming a PEI Active Community.” Motion carried.

Public Input

Mayor Collins opened the floor for public comment and requested anyone interested in addressing Council to come to the podium.

Faye Fraser addressed Council noting that this would be her last year as chair of the Montague Beautification Committee. She commented on how much she enjoyed working with the committee over the years and expressed hope that someone would start another group to continue this work. She also expressed appreciation to town staff for their cooperation, especially to Cathy Gill. In closing she requested the media to promote the Beautification contest and encourage residents to enter their property.

Mayor Collins, on behalf of Council, expressed appreciation to Faye and her committee for all the work they did over the years. Councillor Mabon also commented on the work carried out by this committee and noted that many of the members have, over the years, died, moved away or gave up the work due to age. He expressed his thanks to Faye noting that she will be missed, but also that he knew she would be available to help whoever would take over.

Janice Taylor asked if Council had an official position regarding the location of the new school. If not, she felt that it should. Mayor Collins replied that the topic has not been discussed by Council nor was it on the agenda. She also asked if SEA had been consulted with regard to the construction of the new bridge. David Boyce commented that was not a role for the association. Her third topic was with respect to the paving of Annear Drive. She commented that, last year, Allan Greene had indicated that this street may be paved in 2006. She asked if this was the case. The CAO responded that the streets to be paved have not yet been selected, however, he did not think Annear Drive would be done since it would be dug up for water mains installation next year if funding is approved.

Barry Walsh, a resident of Harbourview Drive, asked several questions and made some comments regarding the process of selecting streets to receive water service and also respecting the construction schedule and work remaining. Prior to any decision being made about where water will be installed, was there any consultation with the residents? He felt the residents were not informed of their responsibilities; completion date; restoration work, etc. The CAO advised that the contractor was required to restore the street to its condition prior to commencement of this work. The expected completion date for this contract is sometime in late July, however, the restoration work should be done before that time since it is looked after by a different crew than the mains installation. Deputy Mayor MacFarlane responded to the question regarding how the streets were selected.

Notice of Motion

There were no notices of motion.

Festivals & Events

Councillor Doucette addressed Council regarding the Festivals and Events Strategy. He reviewed the document developed last year and its submission to Tourism PEI. Based on last years success, and the strategy document, the Province, through Tourism PEI, with the support of our local MLA has announced a financial commitment of \$12,000 for the 4 Festivals and Events planned to take place this year. Councillor Doucette also provided an overview of the planning and activities that will comprise this year's Summerfest event. Councillor Doucette then presented a cheque for 60% of that amount to Mayor Collins.

Electoral Boundaries

Councillor MacKay expressed his concerned about the proposed new electoral map. With the new riding distribution, the Montague-Kilmuir riding is now split with Montague being aligned with Georgetown. Councillor Mackay further stated that Council should submit a letter of objection regarding this boundary change and requested that a special meeting of Council be convened to examine the proposal when it is formally released to the public.

Volunteerism

Deputy Mayor MacFarlane circulated for Council information some copies of recent news clippings regarding volunteer activities. He noted that , according to statistics, approximately 47% of Islanders are involved in volunteer activities.

CAO Report

A written report for the month of May was presented by the CAO Robin Campbell. There were no items requiring Council action.

Festival & Events Coordinator

Councillor Doucette commented on the vacant Bylaw Enforcement Officer position and suggested that the funds budgeted for this position should be re-allocated to provide supplemental funding for the Festivals & Events Coordinator, Kathy Sandford to continue in this position until the end of 2006.

Mayor Collins suggested that Councillor Doucette should give a notice of motion so that appropriate review can be made and all relevant information would be available for Council to consider.

Councillor Doucette disagreed that a notice of motion was required and subsequently presented the following:

Moved by Councillor Doucette

Seconded by Councillor MacKay

“That the Festival and Events Coordinator be allocated an additional \$300 per week over and above the amount received through EDA and that this position would remain in place until the end of January 2007.”

Discussion: Councillor MacKay asked if there was a specific line item for salary under the Bylaw Enforcement program. The CAO responded in the affirmative.

Councillor Naddy stated that if someone is to be hired, it should be publicly advertised so that other qualified persons would have a chance of being hired.

Councillor Beck stated that this is a dangerous decision because we are stepping on the mandate of the CAO who has been hired to deal with the staffing of the town.

Councillor Mabon asked if this has been discussed with the Finance Committee with a response that it had not.

Deputy Mayor MacFarlane commented that the person in this position does an excellent job for the town, however he was concerned that if this position is to be refilled then the funding would not be there.

Councillor Doucette clarified his intention. He was not trying to give anyone preferential treatment, however, the success we have had is attributed to the work of Kathy Sandford and the group of volunteers. In reference to reallocated money, he was of the understanding that salary money for one position could be used for another position; a straightforward administrative transaction. His only hope was that an appropriate amount of money would be paid for this position.

The motion was then withdrawn by the mover and seconder.

Resolutions

There were no resolutions for consideration.

Councillor Beck

Councillor Beck addressed Council regarding several topics, the first of which was his concern about the number of offences, noted in the RCMP report, that have increased by 100% or more. The CAO responded by noting these percentage referred to the number of cleared offences in relation to the number of charges. It did not mean there was a dramatic increase in offences.

Councillor Beck asked if the Town had a protocol regarding the installation of water service and the capping of private wells. He was advised that the regulations respecting well capping were under provincial jurisdiction.

He also questioned if the infrastructure funds over and above the amount required for the current contract could be used for supplying water on other streets. The CAO responded that an application for approval to use these funds has been submitted to the Infrastructure Secretariat, however, there has been no decision to date.

Councillor Beck then stated that he would like to have water service on his street since he has been experiencing high coliform counts in his private well.

Councillor Beck commented on the Mayor's letter to Premier Binns regarding the location of the high school and stated that he could not support the position that the school remain in its current location.

Adjournment

Moved by Councillor MacKay

Seconded by Councillor Naddy

"That the meeting be adjourned." Motion carried

Meeting adjourned 8:55 pm.

Richard Collins, Mayor

Robin Campbell, CAO