

**Town of Montague
Regular Council Meeting
Town Chambers
Sept. 10, 2007 – 7:00 pm**

Calling to Order:

Mayor Pat McGowan called this meeting to order 7:00 pm.

Attendance:

Mayor Pat McGowan, Deputy Mayor David Mabon, Councillors Bernie Crawford, Peter Doucette, Robert Benoit, Marian Robertson, John MacFarlane, CAO Andrew Daggett, Pastor Dewis Rector, and about 18 members of the public.

Prayer:

Pastor Dewis Rector offered prayer to start the meeting.

Opening Remarks: Mayor Pat McGowan

Mayor McGowan welcomed everyone in attendance. She made mentioned the Halloween curfew and the meeting attended with Minister Bertram where the topic of “Regionalization” and sharing of services with the surrounding areas were discussed. Mayor McGowan also appointed Pam Fitzpatrick, Dugald MacWilliams and Madge Judson to the Library Board. She then presented Mayor’s Awards to the following individuals:

Ralph Annear for his work in the sport of harness racing;

Donna Collins for her work with the Garden of the Gulf Museum;

Barbara Boyce-MacCormac for her contribution to heritage preservation in the Town; and

Richard Knox for all his work with volunteer organizations.

Approval of Agenda:

Moved by Councillor MacFarlane, seconded by Councillor Robertson to approve the agenda.

Motion carried unanimously.

Disclosure of Conflict of Interest:

There were no disclosures.

Adoption of Minutes:

Moved by Councillor Crawford, seconded by Deputy Mayor Mabon to accept the minutes of Aug. 13, 2007 with amendments.

Motion Unanimously Carried

Business Arising From Minutes:

Linden trees on MacDonald and Yeo -

Councillor Crawford addressed the tree issue on MacDonald Ave. and Yeo Crescent and mentioned that he had been informed not to plant around the base of the

trees as it has a tendency to weaken them. He also noted that we should get someone properly trained to perform a “tree survey” to determine the health of the trees on Town property. Mayor McGowan asked Council if they would let the Beautification Committee handle this matter, to which they agreed.

Motion to accept Mark Oliver as Animal Control Officer -

Moved by Councillor Crawford, seconded by Councillor Doucette to accept Mark Oliver as the Animal Control Officer for the Town of Montague.

Motion Unanimously Carried

Mr. Oliver then addressed Council and said he was looking forward to the challenge.

New Business:

Health Plan for Town Staff –

CAO Daggett addressed Council about the need for the Town to adopt a Health Plan for its employees since all are covered under their spouses’ plans, but that may not continue into the future.

Moved by Councillor Crawford, seconded by Councillor Doucette to cover the expenses of a Health Plan as per the CAO contract and cover the Accidental Death and Dismemberment and Life Insurance of the other four employees.

Motion Unanimously Carried

Approval to Pay Invoices:

Moved by Councillor MacFarlane, seconded by Deputy Mayor Mabon to pay the General Accounts Payable for \$64,857.10.

Motion Unanimously Carried

Moved by Councillor MacFarlane, seconded by Councillor Benoit to pay the Water and Sewer Accounts Payable for \$8272.76.

Motion Unanimously Carried

Correspondence:

1. E-mail from Sean Mooney re: Council providing a survey of the land at Wood Islands Hill to make way for divestiture of the excess property to the Town -

Moved by Deputy Mayor Mabon, seconded by Councillor Robertson to get the survey completed and send it along.

Motion Unanimously Carried

2. Letter to Councillor Crawford confirming a financial contribution of \$10,000 from the Tourism Product Development Fund in support of the Montague Festival Program/Strategy –

Councillor Crawford made mention of the \$10,000 given to the Festivals Committee by the previous government and that the Liberal government has agreed to honour this commitment.

3. E-mail from Leslie Malone, Energy Strategy Coordinator with the Environmental Coalition of PEI re: having a meeting with Council to discuss a potential partnership with respect to energy and climate change initiatives -

Council agreed to have a meeting with ECO-PEI and informed staff to arrange such for a Tuesday morning in the next month.

4. Letter from Hon. Carolyn Bertram as a follow-up to the meeting with the Dept. of CCA.

Moved by Councillor MacFarlane, seconded by Deputy Mayor Mabon to meet with Darlene Rhodenizer, at our earliest convenience, and discuss the topics of Minister Bertram's letter and the Capacity Building Fund study.

Motion Unanimously Carried

Councillor Reports: Councillors gave their monthly reports in the following order with the following resolutions and/or motions:

a) Councillor Benoit

Councillor Benoit gave a brief update on Water and Sewer arrears and mentioned that they would be dealt with after Sept. 14th. He stated that he was still working on getting the Watershed group re-established, he apologized to Councillor Crawford for not being around as much as he should have been or would have liked to be during the Summerfest events, and he made mention of and thanked the volunteers who helped out with the Musical Ride.

b) Councillor Robertson

Spoke to Council about Communities in Bloom and that the judges only looked at "Commercial" areas. She gave awards to 8 people who won the "Residential" CIB contest and referenced those who made honourable mention (see Attached "A").

c) Councillor Doucette

Councillor Doucette and Councillor MacFarlane changed places in the report order so that a presentation could be made at this time. Councillor Doucette asked if Merrill Scott, Dr. David Hambly and Don Gorman would come forward to make the presentation on behalf of the Musical Ride Committee. Dr. Hambly spoke on their behalf and presented a cheque to Council for the Wellness Centre in the amount of \$12, 365.94, \$5000 of which was donated from Scotiabank. Mr. Scott thanked the Musical Ride Committee for all their hard work and accepted the cheque as part of the Wellness Centre fund raising.

Councillor Doucette thanked Scotiabank for their generous contribution and also thanked the long list of contributors.

Councillor Doucette's report is attached as item "B".

Councillor Doucette thanked Councillor MacFarlane for changing places with him such that the presentation could be made at this time.

d) Deputy Mayor Mabon

Deputy Mayor Mabon gave an update regarding the crosswalk lights and stated that the ones at the Post Office would be operational within a couple of weeks. He noted his attendance to the Senior's College conference on Aug. 26 and 27th and mentioned that they are very interested in establishing a division of that service here in Montague if there is sufficient interest. Deputy Mayor Mabon and Councillor MacFarlane will work to determine the amount of interest in having these programs. Deputy Mayor Mabon then gave an update on the streetscape project and had CAO Daggett explain how Council could pay for this project with Gas Tax Funding.

Moved by Councillor MacFarlane, seconded by Deputy Mayor Mabon to amend the Gas Tax Funding agreement to allow for the Streetscape project.

Motion Unanimously Carried

Deputy Mayor Mabon then reminded everyone to go in and see the Museum.

e) Councillor Crawford

Began by stating how well things seem to be going with respect to the help of the RCMP and again thanked Cst. Earl Woods for all his work this summer as "beat cop". He stated that he was impressed with the Intermediate School kids and the way they crossed the streets as groups, that some of the Firemen will be recertifying as or upgrading their first aid to "First Responders", and that the planning for "Oktoberfest" is proceeding well and is slated for Oct. 6th and 7th.

f) Councillor MacFarlane

Made note that things at the Waterfront seem to be going well and that Deputy Mayor Mabon will be attending a Waterfront Development Committee meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 11th in his stead. He made mention that Water & Sewer accounts are now able to be paid online or at the ATM at Scotiabank and will be able to be paid at the other local banks' ATM machines, and online, by mid Oct. He stated that he is working on getting a senior's seminar on scams and fraud put on by the RCMP in the future, and also made note of the Musical Ride and how well it was attended.

Mayor McGowan mentioned that the Waterfront Provincial flag needed to be replaced.

Public Comments/Concerns:

Lorne Cudmore feels that the Library needs to remain in the center of Town.

Jim Nimmo thinks the idea of a "Senior's Collage" is good but that it needs to be done properly. He agrees that we are on the right track and thanked Deputy Mayor Mabon for attending the conference.

Billy Cann told Council that he has a petition with 350 names on it in support of keeping the school in the downtown area. He informed Council that he is adamantly opposed to moving the school and will be back by the Main Street Irving again on Friday

to gather more names for his petition. He also requested the Town's position on the "school" issue. Mayor McGowan stated that the Premier said the school was moving so Council insisted that it stay within the Town boundaries.

Janice Taylor spoke and disagreed with Mr. Cann saying that she feels the school should be moved for children's health reasons. She asked Council if the land on the Wood Islands Hill was Town owned, which Mayor McGowan confirmed. Ms. Taylor thinks the Health system is headed for a "crisis" if we don't do something to keep the kids away from the fast food outlets. She also respectfully stated that a Library on the other side of the bridge would help those over there who presently don't have the ease of accessibility that people on the north side now enjoy. Again Mayor McGowan stated that the Premier said the school was moving, therefore Council's position is to keep it in the Town limits.

Nadine Williams asked if there were any restrictions on the property at Wood Islands Hill that would prevent the school from going there. Mayor McGowan stated that only a small portion of the property is restricted. Ms. Williams also wondered if the Town would be vocal if the school was moved outside.

Adjournment:

Moved by Councillor Crawford, seconded by Councillor MacFarlane to adjourn.
Motion Unanimously Carried

This meeting was adjourned at 9:22 pm.

Andrew Daggett
CAO

Pat McGowan
Mayor