

The Corporation of The Town of Parry Sound

Council Meeting Minutes January 15, 2019

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Minutes

Date:

January 15, 2019

Time:

7:00 p.m. (6:00 p.m. Closed)

Location:

52 Seguin Street, Council Chambers, Gibson Street Entrance

Members Present:

Mayor Jamie McGarvey, Councillor Vanessa Backman, Councillor Paul Borneman, Councillor Roger Burden, Councillor Brad Horne, Councillor Bonnie Keith, Councillor Doug McCann

Staff Present:

CAO Clayton Harris, Clerk Rebecca Johnson, Director of Development and Protective Services Dave Thompson, Manager of Parks & Recreation April McNamara, Manager of Revenue & Taxation Rob Beaumont, Manager of Building and Planning Services Taylor Elgie

Resolution 2019 - 001

Moved by Councillor Burden

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Seconded by Councillor Borneman

That pursuant to Section 239(2) of the Municipal Act, R.S.O. 2001, Chapter 25, as amended, the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Parry Sound move to a meeting closed to the public in order to address matters pertaining to:

b) personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees. **(Lay Appointees to Boards)**

c) a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land for municipal or local board purposes. **(Town`s Input as Interested Third Party to a Land Lease application)**

d) labour relations or employee negotiations. **(Municipal Office Hours during Festive Time)**

e) litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the municipality or local board. **(Claim Against the Municipality Regarding 2018 Municipal Election)**

f) the receiving of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose. **(Claim Against the Municipality Regarding 2018 Municipal Election)**

Carried

Presentations: n/a

1. Agenda

1.1 Additions to Agenda/Notice of Motion

1.2 Prioritization of Agenda

1.3 Adoption of Agenda

Moved by Councillor McCann

Seconded by Councillor Backman

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That the Council agenda for January 15, 2019 be approved as circulated.

Carried

1.4 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

Councillor Horne declared pecuniary interest on item 9.2.3 as the purchase of land ambulances through the EMS budget is and was developed in conjunction with the West Parry Sound Health Centre and his spouse is CFO of Health Centre. Councillor Horne left the room during Council deliberation and the vote.

Mayor Jamie McGarvey declared pecuniary interest on item 5.1. and 9.2.2. due to his affiliation with the Non-Profit Housing Group. Mayor McGarvey left the room during Council deliberation and the vote.

2. Public Meeting

3. Minutes and Matters Arising from Minutes

3.1 Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Burden

Seconded by Councillor Horne

That the Minutes from the Regular Council meeting held December 18, 2018 be approved as circulated.

Carried

3.2 Questions of Staff

3.2.1 In response to Councillor Keith's inquiry as to the situation with fires over last year's Christmas season, Director of Development and Protective Services Dave Thompson reported that in the province overall last year, fire deaths were up 15 to 20%,

over previous years which had held steady at about 75 fire deaths, Mr. Thompson noted that early detection is key to reducing fire deaths, and took the opportunity to advise everyone to use smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Mr. Thompson also noted that locally, although there was a serious structure fire last Friday, and a small fire on Sunday, no one was hurt.

3.2.2 In response to Mayor McGarvey's inquiry as to the status and reasons for the condition of Kinsmen Park rink, Manager of Parks & Recreation April McNamara responded that Kinsmen Park is open and operational at this time, but that "Mother Nature" is in charge. Ms. McNamara noted further that when conditions are not conducive for making or maintaining ice, and people use the ice in spite of posted closure, it does diminish the quality of the ice. She requested that people respect any posted notice of the ice closure. Councillor Borneman also commented that the first obligation of the Parks & Recreation staff is to maintain the Bobby Orr Community Centre ice, and within budget, and that responding to weather dependent repairs at Kinsmen Park at odd hours is challenging. All who spoke thanked the staff and volunteers for the work in keeping the Kinsmen Park ice open and useable.

4. Correspondence

4.1 Susan Telford

Re: Request for more discussion on location of proposed Splash Pad

Circulated to Mayor and Council and forwarded to the Manager of Parks & Recreation for follow-up; Response has been provided.

4.2 Colleen O'Hare

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Re: Opposition to splashpad at proposed Waubuno Beach location

Circulated to Mayor and Council and referred to Manager of Parks & Recreation for response.

4.3 J. Hinchliffe

Re: State of property after infrastructure work on 40 Waubeek Street easement.

Circulated to Mayor and Council and referred to Director of Public Works; response has been provided.

4.4 Harald Themer

Re: Request for formal permission to use area at 60 Seguin Street for parking.

Circulated to Mayor and Council and referred to Director of Development & Protective Services.

4.5 AMO WatchFile for December 13 and 20, 2018, and January 3 and 10, 2019

Re: Municipal Industry News

Circulated to Mayor, Council, relevant staff and filed.

5. Deputations

5.1 Darrin O'Brien, Gord Harrison

Re: Appeal of municipal taxation on 86 Gibson St.

Darrin O'Brien noted in addition to being Vice Chair of the Non-Profit Housing Group, he is a realtor and is aware that finding attainable housing in Parry Sound is always a

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challenge and especially now. This is why the Board has reached out to transform the old Beatty School into housing and a Community Hub and worked hard with the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) to have Parry Sound Hub exempt from paying property tax, in order that the Board could carry on providing services and rent reduction to the tenants. Mr. O'Brien said that it was therefore disheartening to present to the Board notice of appeal that the Town has made on MPAC's decision to make the property tax exempt.

Gord Harrison reported that the key tests for a tax exemption consideration were 1) not for profit; 2) relief of the poor; and 3) receive government funding. Mr. Harrison claimed that the housing project at 82-86 Gibson Street meets the criteria, and with this certainty, the Board fears a long and expensive court battle over something that is very obvious. Mr. Harrison noted that this property has never been taxed; it was part of the school board, and now provides social housing, day care, and a place of worship; all of which independently would be tax exempt.

Mr. O'Brien noted the Town's Official Plan, Section 2.85 directly reflects the Town's need and support for affordable housing. Mr. O'Brien concluded with requesting therefore that the Town entertain rescinding its appeal of MPAC's decision to make the property tax exempt before getting down the road of legal fees, and instead work together as a team to provide more affordable housing.

5.2 John Myer, Rebecca Pollock, Teryl Faulkner

Re: Parry Sound Area Active Transportation Current Priorities

Becky Pollock introduced the Parry Sound Area Active Transportation as a grass-roots group of citizens advocating for safe, accessible walking and cycling throughout the area, and especially in Parry Sound. She expressed appreciation for the advice and good working relationship with Town staff. Ms. Pollock described the benefits of active transportation, including healthy residents, safer streets, accessible & affordable transit,

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as well as the economic development and tourist opportunities afforded such as the Pedalling for Parkinsons event, and the opportunity to build upon trail events. Ms. Pollock advocated for connectivity between the various trail networks in the Trail Master Plan and between municipalities. She expressed appreciation for Town projects that contributed to safer streets and more active accessible transportation including the: William street reconstruction which included bike lanes; reduced speed limits in community zones; sidewalk improvements on Wood Street; and Wink's Link.

Ms. Pollock requested that Council consider in its 2019 Budget, the following priorities: timed flashing light signs near schools; safer St. Charles St. crossing; safer Joseph and Bowes Streets according to the "road diet".

Ms. Pollock finished with a five-minute video explaining the road diet, which essentially shrinks the lanes of traffic into fewer, often creating a centre lane for left turn options and bike lanes at the right side.

In response to Councillor Backman's inquiry as to whether there were any statistics on collisions where a "road diet" is recommended, John Myer indicated that they didn't have such stats. This data is not a priority of the police. Mr. Myer did note that the concept of a "road diet" is not entirely new; that Midland, Orillia and Barrie all have some roads re-designed according to the road diet, and he specified Coldwater Road leading into Orillia as one such example.

5.3 Ruth Beattie, Nancy Regan, Parry Sound High School Parent Council

Re: Recommended amendments to provincial guidelines governing retail cannabis stores.

Ms. Regan read the December 18th Council Minutes summary of their deputation regarding their opposition to retail cannabis stores in Parry Sound. In addition to the concerns outlined therein with respect to youth access to and use of cannabis, Ms.

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Regan noted that if one is an addict under the age of 16, there are no specialized programs in Parry Sound to help.

Ms. Regan noted that of the several surveys referred to at the December 18th Council meeting taken in the community regarding this issue, two were business related and it was not surprising to her that there was strong support. Ms. Regan questioned as to whether any surveys were taken amongst health care providers, as many people she approached were unaware of the issue. Those in attendance at the meeting responded to Ms. Regan's invitation to stand up and make themselves known as in opposition to retail cannabis stores locating in Parry Sound.

Ms. Regan requested that in the event Council decides to opt-in, permitting retail cannabis stores to locate in Parry Sound, that the following guidelines per Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit be recommended:

- a) Cannabis retail stores should not be located within 500 metres of schools, Canadore College, parks and open spaces, addictions facilities such as alcohol and detox centres/clinics, day nurseries/child care centres, libraries, community centres/arenas or mental health/addiction centres.
- b) Clustering of cannabis retail stores should be avoided as well as clustering of cannabis stores with retail outlets selling alcohol.
- c) Cannabis retail stores should not be permitted on residentially zoned lands or within 50 metres of residentially zoned lands.
- d) Some of the monies allotted on a household basis for allowing cannabis stores should be used towards adolescent treatment of cannabis misuse disorder.
- e) Operating hours should mirror LCBO hours instead of the legislative 9 am-11 pm.

Ms. Regan cited again from Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, rationale for the guidelines: a) retail outlet proximity to groups vulnerable to health and social harms may negatively influence vulnerable populations; b) a retail outlet proximity to youth-serving facilities can normalize and increase substance use; c) high retail outlet density can

contribute to increased consumption which can lead to significant health, social harms and costs.

Ms. Regan concluded by requesting Council's consideration of these amendments

Mayor McGarvey advised the deputation that subject to Council's approval, it is possible to take the recommendations and forward to the province to consider in the regulations.

He therefore asked that the deputation ensure the recommendations are forwarded to staff to bring forward to the next meeting of Council.

6. Mayor & Councillors' Reports

7. Ratification of Matters from Closed Agenda

7.1. Lay Appointments to Library Board, and Election Compliance Audit Committee

Resolution 2019 - 002

Moved by Councillor Borneman

Seconded by Councillor Burden

That Council hereby amends Schedule "A" to Resolution 2018-142 per the attached, in order to approve the appointment of Barb Cribbett and revoke the appointment of Sandy Edington to the West Parry Sound Joint Election Compliance Audit Committee; and to approve the appointment of Stephen Heder, and revoke the appointments of George Ashford and Karen Hodgkinson to the Parry Sound Public Library Board.

Carried

8. Consent Agenda

9. Resolutions and Direction to Staff

9.1 Public Works

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9.2 Development and Protective Services

9.2.1 Opt-in to permit Cannabis Retail Stores

Spokesperson: Taylor Elgie, Manager of Building & Planning Services

Resolution 2019 - 003

Moved by Councillor Borneman

Seconded by Councillor Burden

That Council for the Corporation of The Town of Parry Sound opts-in to permit cannabis retail stores in its community.

Carried

9.2.2 Increasing Housing Supply

Spokespersons: Taylor Elgie, Manager of Building & Planning Services

Rob Beaumont, Manager Revenue & Taxation

Resolution 2019 - 004

Moved by Councillor Backman

Seconded by Councillor Horne

Whereas the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing has requested comments by January 25, 2019 in regard to Increasing Housing Supply in Ontario consultation document, as part of the Housing Supply Action Plan; and

Whereas the Town of Parry Sound supports the goals of this document, being to expand the housing supply in Ontario, increase quality rental housing and enable home ownership; and

Whereas the consultation document wishes to expand all housing types, which includes affordable housing; and

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Whereas Section 3(1)12iii. of the Assessment Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. A.31 provides an exemption from property taxation for any land owned by a charitable, non-profit philanthropic corporation organized for the relief of the poor if the corporation is supported in part by public funds; and

Whereas the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) has determined this provision has been applied to certain affordable housing initiatives in Ontario and resulted in a 100% tax exemption for some of these developments; and

Whereas these developments still place a demand on municipal services and their tax relief must therefore be recouped from other property owners, resulting in increased taxation; and

Whereas this Section of the Assessment Act will adversely impact the goals contained in the Increasing Housing Supply in Ontario consultation document, by creating a negative stigma towards affordable housing and a reluctance to support future affordable housing projects; and

Whereas it is very difficult to monitor an exempt development over time to determine if the development has changed its mandate or operations such that it would no longer qualify for the exemption; and

Whereas an appeal of MPAC's decision to exempt a property cannot be appealed to the Assessment Review Board but must be done through a Court Application which can be time consuming and costly.

Now therefore be it resolved that the Town of Parry Sound supports increasing the overall housing supply and supports affordable housing projects; and

That Section 3(1)12iii. of the Assessment Act which places an unfair tax burden upon municipalities, should be amended such that the local municipality that bears the financial burden should be permitted flexibility and the ability to determine the extent of any financial relief provided in their community; and further

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That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Steve Clark, MPP, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Mr. Norman Miller, MPP, Parry Sound – Muskoka, the Director of the Market Housing Branch of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).

The following amendment was proposed:

Moved by Councillor Backman

Seconded by Councillor McCann

That a copy be also be forwarded as well to Vic Fedeli, Minister of Finance

Carried

The amended resolution was voted on:

Carried as amended

9.2.3 EMS Ambulance Replacements for 2019

Spokesperson: Dave Thompson, Director of Development & Protective Services

Backman Dep. Mayor

Resolution 2019-005

Moved by Councillor Keith

Seconded by Councillor Backman

That upon the recommendation of the EMS Advisory Committee, the Town of Parry Sound approves the replacement of three ambulances to be delivered in late winter 2019; and

That the supplier of record, Crestline, be awarded the contract for the supply of these three ambulances in the amount of \$126,578.78 + HST each, with funding from the 2019 EMS equipment reserve fund; and

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That upon delivery of the 2019 ambulances, the three being replaced be deemed surplus with two of them being donated to the First Response Teams in McKellar and Argyle, and the third being traded into Crestline for the sum of \$10,000.00.

Carried

9.3 CAO's Office/Administration

9.4 Finance and POA Court Services

9.5 Other Business

10. By-laws

10.1 Public Works

10.2 Development Protective Services

10.3 CAO's Office/Administration

10.3.1 Downtown Business Association/Town of Parry Sound Memorandum of Understanding: Downtown Standard of Care

Spokesperson: April McNamara, Manager Parks & Recreation

By-law 2019-6888

Being a By-law to authorize the execution of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Corporation of the Town of Parry Sound and the Parry Sound Downtown Business Association for Downtown Standard of Care, and to repeal By-law No: 2017-6783

Read a First Second and Third time, Passed, Signed and Sealed, this 15th day of January, 2019

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10.4 Finance and POA Court Services

10.5 Other Business

10.6.1 Confirming by-law

By-law 2019 - 6889

Being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Council.

Read a First Second and Third time, Passed, Signed and Sealed, this 15th day of January, 2019

11. Adjournment

Personal Information collected in *Section 2. Public Meeting, Section 4. Correspondence and/or Section 5. Deputations* is collected under the authority of the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA), Section 21. (1) c* and will be used to create a record available to the general public.

Mayor Jamie McGarvey

Rebecca Johnson, Clerk