

Town of Kensington
Minutes of Regular Council Meeting
Monday, February 13, 2023
7:00 PM

Council Members Present: Mayor Rowan Caseley; Deputy Mayor Jeff Spencer
Councillors: Toombs, Gallant, MacRae, and Mann

Staff Members Present: Chief Administrative Officer, Geoff Baker; Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Wendy MacKinnon; Municipal Clerk, Kim Caseley; Police Chief, Lewie Sutherland

Visitors: Coreen Pickering – Former Deputy Mayor

Regrets: Councillor Doucette

1. Calling of Meeting to Order

- 1.1** Mayor Caseley called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and welcomed Council members staff and visitors to the February meeting of Kensington Town Council. Mayor Caseley acknowledged that the land on which we gather is the traditional and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq First Nation.

2. Approval of Tentative Agenda

- 2.1** *Moved by Councillor MacRae, seconded by Deputy Mayor Spencer to approve the tentative agenda for the February 2023 regular meeting of Town Council. Unanimously carried.*

3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

- 3.1** *Nil.*

4. Delegations / Presentations

- 4.1** *Mayor Caseley made a presentation to Police Chief, Lewie Sutherland, with a long-service award on behalf of Premier Dennis King in recognition of over 15 years of merit and service to the Province of Prince Edward Island.*
- 4.2** *Mayor Caseley presented former Deputy Mayor, Coreen Pickering, with a gift of appreciation for her 8 years of dedication and service to Town Council and the residents of the Town of Kensington.*

5. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

- 5.1 *Moved by Councillor Toombs, seconded by Deputy Mayor Spencer to approve the minutes from January 9, 2023, regular meeting of Town Council. Unanimously carried.*

6. **Business Arising from Minutes**

- 6.1 *Nil.*

7. **Reports**

7.1 **Chief Administrative Officer Report**

- 7.1.1 *Moved by Councillor Gallant, seconded by Councillor Toombs to adopt the January 2023 CAO Report as prepared by CAO, Geoff Baker. Unanimously carried.*

- 7.1.2 Mayor Caseley and Council discussed the crosswalk locations proposed by the Provincial Department of Transportation. Town Council did not support the proposal and requested staff to continue to advocate for the crosswalks to be located at the crossing points of the Confederation Trail.

7.2 **Fire Department Statistical Report**

- 7.2.1 *Moved by Deputy Mayor Spencer, seconded by Councillor Toombs to approve the December 2022 Fire Statistical report as prepared by Fire Chief, Rodney Hickey. Unanimously carried.*

7.3 **Police Department Statistical Report**

- 7.3.1 *Moved by Councillor Toombs, seconded by Councillor MacRae to approve the December 2022 Police Statistical Report as prepared by Chief Sutherland. Unanimously carried.*

- 7.3.2 Chief Sutherland reported that the decrease in the speed limit in the school zone from 50 km to 40 km has been very beneficial in keeping speeds lowered in the area.

Chief Sutherland excused himself from the Council Chamber at 7:21 pm.

7.4 **Development Permit Summary Report**

- 7.4.1 *Moved by Deputy Mayor Spencer, seconded by Councillor Toombs to approve the January 2023 Development Permit Summary Report as prepared by Municipal Clerk, Kim Caseley. Unanimously carried.*

7.5 Bills List

- 7.5.1** *Moved by Councillor Mann, seconded by Councillor MacRae to approve the December 2022 Bills in the amount of \$340,190.56. Unanimously carried.*
- 7.5.2** *Moved by Councillor Mann, seconded by Councillor Toombs to approve the December 2022 Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$181,607.10. Unanimously carried.*
- 7.5.3** *Moved by Councillor Mann, seconded by Deputy Mayor Spencer to approve the December 2022 Water & Sewer Utility Bills in the amount of \$12,482.80. Unanimously carried.*

7.6 Summary Income Statement

- 7.6.1** *Moved by Councillor Mann, seconded by Deputy Mayor Spencer to approve the Summary Income Statement for the month of December 2022. Unanimously carried.*

7.7 Credit Union Centre Report

- 7.7.1** *Moved by Councillor Toombs, seconded by Deputy Mayor Spencer to approve the Credit Union Centre report for the month of December 2022. Unanimously carried.*

- 7.7.2** Councillor Gallant inquired if the ballfield lighting that was damaged during hurricane Fiona was covered by the Town's insurance.

Mr. Baker confirmed the ballfield lighting was not covered under the Town's asset schedule but was included in the disaster financial assistance program application. Staff will confirm the new board has been ordered to ensure installation prior to the start of the ball season.

- 7.7.3** Councillor Gallant addressed concerns regarding recent complaints received from users of the Credit Union Centre. Mayor Caseley and the CAO have been working on a plan to address concerns regarding cleanliness and making required repairs moving forward.

- 7.7.4** Councillor Gallant expressed frustration with the current condition of the Kensington Wild and Vipers dressing rooms and noted they are the shared responsibility of the teams and the Credit Union Centre staff. It was also noted that the back door of the facility should have limited access and be primarily used for loading the bus with equipment.

7.8 Mayor's Report

7.8.1 *Moved by Deputy Mayor Spencer, seconded by Councillor Toombs to approve the Mayor's report for the month of January 2023 as presented by Mayor Caseley. Unanimously carried.*

7.8.2 Mayor Caseley inquired if a member of Council would be available to attend a Canada Games Sponsorship Banquet on February 23, 2023. Councillor Gallant expressed interest and will confirm his availability with Mayor Caseley.

7.8.3 Councillor Mann & Councillor Gallant noted that the 55th Kensington-Bedford Friendship Hockey Exchange was a great success and that it was great to have the event back again.

7.9 Federation of PEI Municipalities (FPEIM) Report

7.9.1 Semi-Annual Meeting was held on Saturday, February 4th. Items discussed included the presentation of financials, Councillor liability & conflicts of interest, emergency measures, and updates provided following hurricane Fiona, and a tour of the new Climate & Adaptation facility.

7.10 Heart of PEI Initiative Report

7.10.1 *Nil.*

7.11 Kensington Area Chamber of Commerce (KACC) Report

7.11.1 The Annual Presidents Dinner is scheduled for April 13, 2023. The KACC is looking at developing a website for community support and an information forum for residents.

There are discussions on hosting a Car Rally fundraiser, more information coming forward soon. The AGM was held on February 13th and was well attended.

7.12 2023 – 55 Plus Games

7.12.1 Deputy Mayor Spencer confirmed the 55+ committee plans to meet in April following the Winter Games that are taking place in March.

8. New Business

8.1 Request for Decisions

8.1.1 Exempt Staff Wage Increase - 2023

8.1.1.1 Moved by Deputy Mayor Spencer, seconded by Councillor Mann

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Town Council authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to provide a wage increase, effective January 1, 2023, to exempt staff including the Deputy Administrator, Municipal Clerk, Administrative Assistant, Police Chief, Deputy Police Chief, Public Works Supervisor, Credit Union Centre Manager, and Credit Union Centre Assistant Manager in an amount up to 7.7%, according to the Non-Union Employee Handbook.

Motion carried. 4 for – 1 opposed (Mann)

8.1.2 Street Lighting Upgrades

8.1.2.1 Moved by Councillor Toombs, seconded by Deputy Mayor Spencer

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Town Council authorize the CAO to proceed with the placement of 25 additional streetlights throughout the town and in newly annexed areas, as recommended by staff.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the CAO be directed to draft a Street Lighting Policy for Town Council's consideration.

Unanimously carried.

8.1.3 Kensington & Area Chamber of Commerce (KACC) Sponsorship Opportunity

8.1.3.1 Moved by Deputy Mayor Spencer, seconded by Councillor Toombs

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Town Council authorize the CAO and Mayor to enter into a sponsorship agreement (Memorandum of Understanding) with the Kensington & Area Chamber of Commerce to provide an Executive Level Sponsorship for a 5-year period beginning in 2023 and ending in 2027, at a cost of \$5,000 annually.

Unanimously carried.

8.2 Other Matters

8.2.1 Mayor Caseley acknowledged that February 13-17 is School Staff Appreciation Week.

- 8.2.2 Mayor Caseley noted the 2023/24 budgeting process has started and anticipates a draft financial plan to be presented at the February Committee of Council meeting.
- 8.2.3 Councillor Gallant discussed the need for a community facility that can be used for large groups and events within the Town. Town Council was requested to think about ways to accommodate such a facility.
- 8.2.4 Deputy Mayor Spencer congratulated Mayor Caseley, Councillor Gallant, and Deputy Police Chief Yuill for recently receiving the Queens Platinum Jubilee Medal.
- 8.2.5 Councillor Toombs acknowledged the great work the public works department does to maintain the sidewalks within Town during the winter months.

9. Correspondence

- 9.1 A Thank You card from the family of the late Peggy Clark.
- 9.2 Newsletter from the Heart and Stroke – *Received*.
- 9.3 A letter from the Kensington Skating Club with a sponsorship ad request.

Moved by Councillor Toombs, seconded by Councillor MacRae to purchase a ½ page Silver Blade advertisement for the Kensington Skating Club in the amount of \$500.00.

Unanimously carried.

- 9.4 A letter from Coreen Pickering, resident of the Town of Kensington, to inform Town Council that she was selected to take part in and attend a program with GMIST (Gros Mourne Institute for Sustainable Tourism). The ACTivate (Activating Community Tourism) program is an exciting collaboration between GMIST and The Coady Institute that will support community change leaders who wish to learn how to apply a citizen-led approach to community development.

Ms. Pickering was in attendance and spoke briefly about the program and her vision.

- 9.5 Information regarding the Coldest Night of the Year - a winter fundraiser for people in local communities who need support. *Received*.
- 9.6 Central Coastal Tourism advertising opportunity. *Received*.

Coreen Pickering excused herself from the Council Chamber at 8:09 pm.

10. In-Camera (Closed session)

10.1 *Two items, the nature of which are regulated under Section 119(d) and (e) of the Province of Prince Edward Island Municipal Government Act.*

10.1.1 *Moved by Councillor Toombs, seconded by Deputy Mayor Spencer to enter into an In-Camera session at 8:10 pm.*

Unanimously carried.

10.1.2 *Moved by Councillor Toombs, seconded by Deputy Mayor Spencer to come out of an In-Camera session at 8:53 pm.*

Unanimously carried.

11. Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Toombs, seconded by Councillor MacRae to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 PM. Unanimously carried.

Geoff Baker,
CAO

Rowan Caseley,
Mayor