



TOWN OF KENTVILLE KENTVILLE TOWN COUNCIL CAPITAL BUDGET 2020-2021 MEETING (3) COVID-19 PROTOCOL

Meeting Minutes: May 29, 2020

This meeting was held via electronic means in accordance with the Direction from Minister Chuck Porter: "Effective at 2 pm on March 22, 2020, all municipal councils will discontinue holding their meetings in person, instead only virtual meetings may be held by video or telephone. Those virtual meetings must be recorded, and the minutes posted on a public website within 24 hours of the meeting."

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Sandra Snow called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

PRESENT

Chief Administrative Office (CAO) Kelly Rice reported that all members of Council were present: Mayor Sandra Snow, Councillor Eric Bolland, Deputy Mayor Craig Gerrard, Councillor Cathy Maxwell, Councillor Cate Savage and Councillor Lynn Pulsifer.

Staff in attendance included Chief Administrative Officer Kelly Rice, Director Debra Crowell, Director Rachel Bedingfield, Director Bev Gentleman, Director Dave Bell, Chief Julia Cecchetto, IT Manager Jason Bethune and Recording Secretary Jennifer West.

ABSENT

Councillor John Andrew

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by Councillor Cate Savage, and seconded by Councillor Eric Bolland

That the agenda of May 29, 2020 be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

3. BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

(a) Capital Program 2020-2021 Projects

Director Crowell reviewed the second draft of the proposed capital budget for the Town of Kentville, inviting questions after each section.

Presentation Available

PROJECT OVERVIEW OF CHANGES TO DEPARTMENT:

ADMINISTRATION

Addition of \$20,000 for design work and tendering to support accessibility, security and safety improvements to Town Hall. The cost of these changes is not known at this time.

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES – PARKING LOT

Addition of \$165,400 for arena parking lot and light standards. This work could be done this year when the arena is closed, and when the Fire Department is also doing work. This work will include adding access from Kings Riverside to the downtown.

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES – SIDEWALKS

Addition of \$34,200 for sidewalks near Headliners and the Ultramar.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT – PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS

Decreased by \$203,000 related to the skate park bowl, Memorial Park washroom facility (addition of \$17,000), and decrease for the dog park from \$70,000 to \$50,000.

- Points of Discussion
 - What is the capital acquisition related to the dog park? Fencing.
 - Do we suspect that by next year the Department of Environment approvals will be resolved? Director Bell is working with the province and this may include drilling test wells on that property.
 - Are there opportunities to use some AT funding to pave part of the trail? It would be Council's decision to pave the trail or not. Director Bedingfield recommends public consultation around paving the trail before pursuing this option.
 - How will the department deal with the existing bike racks? Those racks have been paid for and will be installed shortly.
 - Some believe that it may be a good idea to survey residents about paving the trail.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT – EQUIPMENT

Decrease of \$8,000 to reflect removal of bike racks from the budget.

- Points of Discussion
 - Could the recreation department install these bike racks this year? They will be installed this year- they were purchased late in the season last year and could not be installed.
- Review of Capital Project Plan for the next 4 years.
- What is the status of Burke subdivision in this budget? The five year plan includes this community, and also MacDonald community.
- Review of future outstanding debt, debt servicing, debt service ratio and debt affordability.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

It was moved by Councillor Cathy Maxwell and seconded by Councillor Cate Savage

That Council approve the second draft of the 2020-2021 Capital Budget in the amount of \$2,135,100 and further that Council approve in principle future years up to and including 2024-2025.

MOTION CARRIED

Councillors who voted in favour of this motion: Andrew, Bolland, Gerrard, Maxwell, Pulsifer, Savage and Snow

- A lot of debt is covered by debentures, can we repay those early? No.
- All of the infrastructure projects that have been put off over the past 10 years are a big challenge. How long should Council wait before they force these projects to proceed? Director Crowell indicates that announcements about government grants are given in advances. This makes it easy for local governments to move quickly to receive funds. The

Burke subdivision is on the 2021-2022 plan for stormwater, sanitary and street restoration, without funding. That will be the main project for that year. Within the next year, there will be announcements around infrastructure. When funding is announced Council can be consulted and the budget can be amended to support this work. Over the past 3 years, Council has been waiting for these announcements to coincide with this project.

- Some Councillors suggest a small increase in the tax rate to support this kind of project.
- The Burke subdivision upgrades may cost up to \$1,000,000.
- The Province has announced upcoming infrastructure funding, in addition to federal funding.
- If the province and the federal government announce funding this year, before November 2020, could a supplementary budget be brought to Council? Yes.

4. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councillor Cate Savage

That the May 29, 2020 meeting of Council be adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

MOTION CARRIED