



TOWN OF KENTVILLE COUNCIL MEETING

Meeting Minutes: November 27, 2023

Town Hall, 354 Main Street, Kentville Nova Scotia

This meeting was held in Town Hall and was livestreamed on YouTube.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Sandra Snow called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and that all members of Council were present: Mayor Sandra Snow, Councillor Craig Gerrard, Councillor Paula Huntley, Councillor Cathy Maxwell, Councillor Cate Savage and Councillor Gillian Yorke and Councillor Andrew Zebian.

Staff in attendance included Interim Chief Administrative Officer Rachel Bedingfield, Solicitor Geoff Muttart, and Recording Secretary Jennifer West.

Deputy Mayor Cate Savage was Chair of the meeting.

REGRETS

None.

DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Addition: New Business, Council writing a letter to Federal Government

Addition: Audit Management Letter

It was moved by Councillor Gillian Yorke and Councillor Andrew Zebian

That Council add to the agenda Writing a Letter to the Federal Government

MOTION CARRIED

Councillors who voted in favour of this motion:

Gerrard, Huntley, Maxwell, Savage, Snow, Yorke and Zebian

It was moved by Councillor Andrew Zebian and Councillor Cathy Maxwell

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That Council add to the agenda a Discussion of the Audit Management Letter.

MOTION CARRIED

Councillors who voted in favour of this motion:

Gerrard, Huntley, Maxwell, Savage, Yorke and Zebian

Councillors who voted against this motion:

Snow

Discussion

- Concerns about the letter qualifying as an in-camera item on the agenda.

Approval of Agenda

It was moved by Councillor Andrew Zebian and Councillor Paula Huntley

That the agenda of November 27, 2023 be approved as amended.

MOTION CARRIED

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

(a) Council meeting held on October 30, 2023

On page 4. Point of Order, this should be removed from the minutes.

On page 3. regarding future conflicts, this should be removed as it was not the sentiment of all of Council

It was moved that the minutes of the Council meeting on October 30, 2023 be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

(b) Public Hearing held on October 30, 2023

It was moved that the minutes of the Public Hearing on October 30, 2023 be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(a) None.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS

(a) Council Advisory Committee Reports

(1) Recommendation for Forcemain Grant Application

At the November 14, 2023 meeting of Council Advisory Committee, Director Bell submitted his report outlining the need for a replacement of a forced main, the first of many infrastructure projects in the coming years.

Report available

It was moved by Councillor Craig Gerrard and Councillor Andrew Zebian

That Council support the joint application with the Village of New Minas and the applicant and asset owner, the Municipality of the County of Kings, for up to 50% funding through the Municipal Capital Growth Program for the replacement of the forcemains from the Justice Centre to end of the existing ductile iron pipes near Eaves Hollow.

MOTION CARRIED

Councillors who voted in favour of this motion:

Gerrard, Huntley, Maxwell, Savage, Snow, Yorke and Zebian

(2) Changing the Name of Cornwallis Street

At the November 14, 2023 meeting of Council Advisory Committee, CAO Bedingfield presented the policy which formalizes the name change from Cornwallis Street to Bridge Street, effective January 8, 2024.

Report available

It was moved by Councillor Gillian Yorke and Councillor Cathy Maxwell

That Council approve by policy that Cornwallis being a street located in the Town of Kentville, as shown in Schedule A, be renamed Bridge Street.

MOTION CARRIED

Councillors who voted in favour of this motion:

Huntley, Maxwell, Savage, Snow, Yorke and Zebian

Councillors who voted against this motion:

Gerrard

(3) Basic Income Guarantee

At the November 14, 2023 meeting of Council Advisory Committee, Becca LaPierre and Roger Tatlock gave a presentation about the importance of the federal government establishing a model of a Basic Income Guarantee

for Canadians. They requested a letter from Council supporting a Basic income Guarantee in Nova Scotia.

Report available

It was moved by Councillor Gillian Yorke and Councillor Puala Huntley

That Council support the basic income guarantee.

MOTION CARRIED

Councillors who voted in favour of this motion:

Huntley, Maxwell, Savage, Snow, Yorke and Zebian

Councillors who voted against this motion:

Gerrard

(4) Council Meeting Dates, 2024

At the November 14, 2023 meeting of Council Advisory Committee, Mayor Sandra Snow introduced the proposed meeting dates for Council Advisory Committee and Council meetings in the 2024 calendar year, with working meetings on the second Monday of the month from January to May.

Report available

Discussion

- Direction to the CAO that members are given 72 hours notice for working meetings to be added to the schedule.

It was moved by Councillor Craig Gerrard and Councillor Andrew Zebian

That Council approve the proposed schedule.

MOTION CARRIED

Councillors who voted in favour of this motion:

Gerrard, Huntley, Maxwell, Savage, Snow, Yorke and Zebian

(5) Appointment of Returning Officer

At the November 14, 2023 meeting of Council Advisory Committee, CAO Rachel Bedingfield described the role of the Returning Officer and Assistant Returning Officer in the management of the 2024 Municipal Election.

Report available

It was moved by Councillor Craig Gerrard and Councillor Andrew Zebian

That Council appoint Al Kingsbury as the Returning Officer

And further, Jeannette Stapleton as the Assistant Returning Officer for the 2024 municipal election.

MOTION CARRIED

Councillors who voted in favour of this motion:

Gerrard, Huntley, Maxwell, Savage, Snow, Yorke and Zebian

(6) Voting Method

At the November 14, 2023 meeting of Council Advisory Committee, CAO Rachel Bedingfield described the options available to Council in the manner of voting for the municipal election, and offered the options of a paper ballot system, online ballot system, or a combined ballot system. Council selected the hybrid method which will give residents options for voting online or at a voting station in town.

Report available

It was moved by Councillor Craig Gerrard and Councillor Paula Huntley

That Council establish online and paper voting ballots for the 2024 municipal election.

MOTION CARRIED

Councillors who voted in favour of this motion:

Gerrard, Huntley, Maxwell, Savage, Snow, Yorke and Zebian

(7) List of Electors

At the November 14, 2023 meeting of Council Advisory Committee, CAO Rachel Bedingfield outlined the process for requesting and receiving a copy of the voters list from the provincial government.

Report available

It was moved by Councillor Craig Gerrard and Councillor Paula Huntley

Staff recommend that Council permit the Returning Officer to obtain and update the list of electors from Elections Nova Scotia.

And

That the permanent register of electors, established and maintained by Elections Nova Scotia, be used as the basis for the preliminary list of electors for the Town of Kentville in the October 19, 2024, municipal election.

MOTION CARRIED

Councillors who voted in favour of this motion:

Gerrard, Huntley, Maxwell, Savage, Snow, Yorke and Zebian

(8) Advance Poll

At the November 14, 2023 meeting of Council Advisory Committee, CAO Rachel Bedingfield described the advance poll method of voting, and proposed a date that is being used by neighbouring municipalities.

Report available

It was moved by Councillor Craig Gerrard and Councillor Andrew Zebian

Staff recommend that Council hold advance polls on October 10, 2024.

MOTION CARRIED

Councillors who voted in favour of this motion:

Gerrard, Huntley, Maxwell, Savage, Snow, Yorke and Zebian

(b) Councillors' and Mayor's Reports

Reports were received and are part of the meeting record.

(1) Councillor Craig Gerrard

Highlights included CAO interviews and Board of Police Commissioners meeting.

Report available for more information.

(2) Councillor Paula Huntley

Highlights included meetings of the Association of Municipal Administrators of Nova Scotia Accessibility coordinator, and the launch of a program that she created called the Tools for Trades program to support students.

Report available for more information.

(3) Councillor Cathy Maxwell

Highlights included public hearing for the rezoning of land on Prospect Avenue, Trails Coalition meeting, and a Kentville Plays event.

Report available for more information.

(4) Deputy Mayor Cate Savage

Highlights included investment committee meeting, regional sewer committee, Kentville Business Community meeting, CAO selection committee interviews and meetings, and the Pumpkin Walk.

Report available for more information.

(5) Councillor Gillian Yorke

Highlights included Board of Police Commissioners meeting, presentation at the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities on policing, Nova Scotia Police Governance meeting, Annapolis Valley Regional Libraries meeting, and a ceremony for Police Long Service awards in Halifax.

Report available for more information.

(6) Councillor Andrew Zebian

Highlights included a meeting of the Heritage Committee, Kentville Business Community block party, Kentville tree lighting, and a supply drive for refugees.

Report available for more information.

(c) Mayor Sandra Snow

Mayor Snow reported on her activities this month with highlights including meeting at Soldiers Memorial, Nova Scotia Health Authority update, community crisis navigator presentation at the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities, and the board at the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities, Intermunicipal Service Agreement for Valley Waste and Kings Transit, webinar on fostering resilience in women municipal leaders, Kings County Academy Pumpkin Drop, Remembrance Day Ceremony, and Police Long Service Award to Chris Burke.

Report available for more information.

Update from the CAO on operational matters

The Executive continues to meet to ensure that staff have what they need to support their requests, and to fulfill requests from Council. There is no update from the province on the pallet community project.

6. NEW BUSINESS

(a) Mothers Against Drunk Driving Campaign

Councillor and Police Commission Chair Gillian Yorke outlined the 2023 MADD campaign to reduce impaired driving, and requested that Council support the campaign.

Report available

It was moved by Councillor Gillian Yorke and Councillor Craig Gerrard

That Council proclaim November 22, 2023 as Project Red Ribbon Day in the Town of Kentville.

MOTION CARRIED

Councillors who voted in favour of this motion:

Gerrard, Huntley, Maxwell, Savage, Snow, Yorke and Zebian

(b) Code of Conduct: Mayor Sandra Snow Breach Report

Deputy Mayor Cate Savage asked for confirmation that an inappropriate word was said by Mayor Snow toward Councillor Andrew Zebian. This was confirmed.

Councillor Andrew Zebian read his statement explaining the context under which Mayor Snow called him an inappropriate word during a Council meeting.

During the reading of this statement:

- Mayor Snow called Point of Order on Councillor Zebian making a correction, according to Roberts Rules of Order, on his account of her apology at the last meeting.
- Mayor Snow called Point of Privilege on Councillor Andrew Zebian, indicating that the contents of his comments do not pertain to this breach.
- Mayor Snow called Point of Order on Councillor Andrew Zebian about Council calling for a sanction. Councillor Zebian reminded Council that Mayor Snow brought a sanction to Council for a ruling at an earlier date.

In response to his report and his request for an apology, Mayor Snow made a statement including an apology to Councillor Zebian about calling him an inappropriate word.

During her statement, Councillor Andrew Zebian called Point of Order against Mayor Snow, when she referred to an apology on November 14, 2023.

Report available

Discussion

- Mayor Sandra Snow is willing to include a written apology with the minutes for this meeting.

Mayor Sandra Snow called Point of Order on Councillor Cathy Maxwell regarding information that has already been resolved at this Council.

It was moved by Councillor Cathy Maxwell and Councillor Andrew Zebian

That the apology be put in written form in a letter from Mayor Sandra Snow to Councillor Andrew Zebian to bring closure to this issue and that the letter be placed in the minutes.

MOTION CARRIED

Councillors who voted in favour of this motion:

Gerrard, Huntley, Maxwell, Savage, Snow, Yorke and Zebian

(c) Letter to government

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Councillor Gillian Yorke read a statement to amplify calls for peace and a ceasefire in Gaza.

Discussion

- Joe Raffi, resident of Kentville, was invited to the podium to share his views on the need for a ceasefire in Gaza.

It was moved by Councillor Gillian Yorke and Councillor Paula Huntley

That Council write a letter to the Federal government to amplify calls that are being made from municipal governments and provincial governments across the Country for the release of hostages, the establishment of humanitarian pathways, diplomatic and political solutions to the crisis and a ceasefire in Palestine.

MOTION CARRIED

Councillors who voted in favour of this motion:

Gerrard, Huntley, Maxwell, Savage, Yorke and Zebian

Councillors who voted against this motion:

Snow

Council took a recess from 8:00 to 8:15pm

(d) Audit Management Letter

Councillor Andrew Zebian described the creation and sharing of the audit management letter from the audit committee. Mayor Sandra Snow, Chair of the Audit Committee, described one part of the management letter around the liability of banked vacation pay and that it was being addressed by staff. It was agreed that the management letter shall be included with the audit report, unless it constitutes as a confidential document, for in-camera meetings only.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. None.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- a. **Dennis Kehoe, Alicia Blvd**

Concerns about the release of the management letter.

Mayor Sandra Snow called Point of Personal Privilege on Mr. Kehoe's suggestion that she was withholding information or lying.

- b. **Akmed, Wolfville Community**

Appreciation to Council for passing the motion for writing the letter. He supports a ceasefire in Gaza.

- c. **Mark Rogers**

Appreciation to the community for coming out to support a ceasefire, and strongly supports Council writing a letter.

Concerns about transparency and choosing which items are brought to a closed session.

Concerns about bullying and avoiding words like petty and BS.

Concerns about some correspondence not being brought to the Council meeting agenda.

d. Frank Bezanson-Harris

Concerns about wanting a balanced perspective on the conflict, being educated and informed about the conflict, and the importance of using the term Ceasefire.

e. Issam Kadre, Kentville

Concerns about the conflict, and desire for a ceasefire.

f. Shaiya, Muslim Women's Community

Shaiya read a statement of a friend who is directly involved in the conflict. She support for a ceasefire and peace.

g. Hasne

Concerns about the conflict, and it's impacts on children.

h. Lubna

Appreciation for the motion and the letter, and to Council for the discussion tonight. She also read a letter from a friend, Joanna, who wasn't able to attend tonight's meeting.

i. Sahid Aconde

Concerns about the crisis in Gaza and the need for a ceasefire.

j. Shabada

Shared stories about children suffering in Gaza.

9. IN CAMERA

It was moved by Councillor Paula Huntley and Councillor Andrew Zebian

That Council move into a closed session at 9:48 pm to discuss two matters of personnel.

MOTION CARRIED

Councillors who voted in favour of this motion:

Gerrard, Huntley, Maxwell, Savage, Snow, Yorke and Zebian

It was moved by Councillor Gillian Yorke and Councillor Andrew Yorke

That Council move back into open session at 10:24 pm

MOTION CARRIED

Councillors who voted in favour of this motion:

Gerrard, Huntley, Maxwell, Savage, Snow, Yorke and Zebian

9. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved

That the November 27, 2023 meeting of Council adjourned at 10:24 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED



Approved by CAO Jeff Lawrence

