



TOWN OF SAINT ANDREWS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES

October 21, 2024, 6:45 p.m.
W.C. O'Neill Arena Complex Council Chambers

A. RECORDING OF ATTENDANCE

A Regular Meeting of the Town of Saint Andrews Council was held on Monday, October 21, 2024, at 6:45 p.m. with the following members present:

Mayor Brad Henderson, Deputy Mayor Kate Akagi, Councillors Mark Bennett, Marc Blanchard, Annette Harland, Lee Heenan, Jamie Hirtle, Steve Neil, and Darrell Weare.

Paul Nopper, Clerk - Senior Administrator and Alexander Gopen, Senior Planner, Southwest New Brunswick Service Commission.

Absent: Chris Spear, CAO/Treasurer.

B. LAND RECOGNITION OF THE PESKOTOMUHKATI NATION

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: 352 - 10/24

Moved by Councillor Hirtle

Seconded by Councillor Neil

That the Agenda for the 241021 Regular Council Meeting be approved as presented.

9 – 0

Carried

D. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

E. PRESENTATIONS

F. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

G. COMMUNICATIONS

H. STAFF REPORT/FINANCIAL REPORT

I. INTRODUCTION, CONSIDERATION AND PASSING OF BY-LAWS AND MOTIONS

1. Planning & Community Development Committee - Councillor Harland and Heenan

1. Amendment Z22-10 to the Zoning By-Law Z22-01, PIDs 15025083, 01326214, and 01325406, 236 Mowat Drive Harbour Town Builders, Second Reading, PCD240702

Mayor Henderson read by title for the Second Reading.

Mayor Henderson read by title for the Third and Final Reading.

Council discussed the site plan and development proposed by Harbour Town Builders. Council asked if the developers could move the dumpster located on the side of the property to the middle parking lot to get it away from an adjacent neighbour. Planner Gopen noted that he will speak with the developer about this change to the site. Council noted that all the neighbours were in support of the proposed development and that the developer did their due diligence on speaking with neighbours and addressing their concerns.

Motion: 353 - 10/24

Moved by Councillor Harland

Seconded by Councillor Heenan

That the Council of the Town of Saint Andrews grants leave for the Second Reading to Amendment Z22-10 to the Zoning By-Law Z22-01 for PIDs 15025083, 01326214, and 01325406, 236 Mowat Drive, Harbour Town Builders.

9 – 0

Carried

Motion: 354 - 10/24

Moved by Councillor Harland

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Akagi

That the Council of the Town of Saint Andrews approves the Terms and Conditions outlined in Schedule "C1" to Amendment Z22-10 to the Zoning By-Law for PIDs 15025083, 01326214, and 01325406, 236 Mowat Drive, Harbour Town Builders.

9 – 0

Carried

Motion: 355 - 10/24

Moved by Councillor Harland

Seconded by Councillor Gumushel

That the Council of the Town of Saint Andrews grants leave for the Third and Final Reading to Amendment Z22-10 to the Zoning By-Law Z22-01 for PIDs 15025083, 01326214, and 01325406, 236 Mowat Drive, Harbour Town Builders.

9 – 0

Carried

- 2. Finance & Administration Committee - Deputy Mayor Akagi**
- 3. Public Works & Public Safety Committee- Councillors Bennett and Neil**

1. Discussion on By-Law No. 18-01, Motor Vehicle By-Law, PWPS241008

Clerk Nopper provided a report to Council reviewing the recent results of the speed radar trailer in Town used through September and the residents' calls of concern over perceived speeding in the community. The report outlined that those entering Mowat Drive from Highway 127, out of 12,000 cars reported, 30% were speeding in excess of 10 km/h. When the trailer was set up on Parr Street and Montague Street, the speeding vehicles were reduced to 5%. Clerk Nopper referred back to the Motor Vehicle By-Law survey of 2023

and the Transportation Master Plan for reference on options to reduce speeding in Town. Clerk Nopper proposed adding the following:

- Digital speed radar signs at Highway 127 and Mowat Drive and Bayview Drive where the speed drops to 50 km/h.
- That Harriet Street at Reed Avenue could be turned into a 4-way stop.
- That Harriet Street at Water Street could be turned into a 3-way stop.
- That on all long streets; Parr Street, Montague Street, Queen Street, and Prince of Wales Street, along Elizabeth Street, could be made into 4-way stops and one 3-way stop.
- That all long streets; Parr Street, Montague Street, Queen Street, and Prince of Wales Street, along Sophia Street, could be made into 4-way stops.

Clerk Nopper noted that this plan would ensure that no traffic calming measures, i.e. speed bumps, curb build outs, etc. would be needed. This would save on costs of infrastructure and ensure that we are not damaging streets. Signage is the most cost-effective option. The new four-way stops in Town would help to slow traffic as there would be a stop sign every three blocks, along the long streets, except for Water Street. Additionally, the 3-way stop on Prince of Wales Street at Elizabeth Street would be used to indicate entering a school zone and would have a 30 km/h rating.

Council thanked Clerk Nopper for the report and discussed the options for the stop signs. Council noted concern that this might not stop all speeders, but would slow them down. Council would be requesting additional enforcement for the installation of stop signs. Council had concerns about sight lines at the four-way stops. Clerk Nopper noted that the Town can review each site and review the sight triangles for vehicular traffic. Clerk Nopper indicated that most hedges or bushes blocking sight lines are generally on the Town easement. Staff would work with landowners to ensure proper sight lines are provided to vehicular traffic. Council discussed option of installing a pilot project of a few stop signs and bring back the speed radar trailer to see if we have increased traffic on adjacent roads to avoid stop signs. Council noted that this would be an all or none project as people would try to avoid the stop signs if possible. Council agreed that all stop signs would need to be installed if the project were to move forward. Clerk Nopper noted that the Town can borrow the speed radar trailer and test the speed of vehicles. Council also discussed speed limits in Town. Council had concerns about the speeding coming into Town from Highway 127. Council agreed with staff to look at installing speed radar signs at the entry points of Mowat Drive and Bayview Drive. Council also supported reducing speed limits in Town from 50 km/h to 40 km/h. Council had consensus for the following changes to the Motor Vehicle By-Law:

- Digital speed radar signs at Highway 127 and Mowat Drive and Bayview Drive where the speed drops to 50 km/h.

- *That Harriet Street at Reed Avenue could be turned into a 4-way stop.*
- *That on all long streets; Parr Street, Montague Street, Queen Street, and Prince of Wales Street, along Elizabeth Street, could be made into 4-way stops and one 3-way stop.*
- *That all long streets; Parr Street, Montague Street, Queen Street, and Prince of Wales Street, along Sophia Street, could be made into 4-way stops.*

4. Economic Development, Business, & Culture Committee - Councillors Hirtle and Weare

1. By-Law No. 24-05, BIA By-Law for Second and Third Readings, EBC240906

Mayor Henderson read by title for the Second Reading

Mayor Henderson read by title for the Third and Final Reading.

Motion: 356 - 10/24

Moved by Councillor Weare

Seconded by Councillor Heenan

That the Council of the Town of Saint Andrews grants leave for the Second Reading of By-Law No. 24-05, A By-Law of the Town of Saint Andrews to Impose a Special Business Improvement Levy for 2025 in the Town of Saint Andrews.

9 – 0

Carried

Motion: 357 - 10/24

Moved by Councillor Weare

Seconded by Councillor Harland

That the Council of the Town of Saint Andrews grants leave for the Third and Final Reading of By-Law No. 24-05, A By-Law of the Town of Saint Andrews to Impose a Special Business Improvement Levy for 2025 in the Town of Saint Andrews.

9 – 0

Carried

5. Recreation & Environment Committee - Councillors Gumushel and Blanchard

J. NEW BUSINESS

K. QUESTION PERIOD

Susan Simms, 175 Prince of Wales Street. In the speeding survey, I wondered if they noted anyone going significantly under the speed limit.

Clerk Nopper - The speed radar systems noted anyone speeding above 50 km/h but noted compliance at 50 km/h and under. There were thresholds set, 50 km/h, 10+ km/h over posted speed limits, and 20+ km/h over posted speed limits.

Susan Simms - People going under the speed limit can also be a hazard. People who are driving the speed limit want to pass those under the speed limit. Just wondering why those under 50 km/h were not mentioned.

Clerk Nopper - This is just how the system is set up but we can inquire with the Regional Service Commission about recordings of speed under 50 km/h.

Susan Simms - Exceeding the speed limits, it has been noted that 5% exceed the speed limit in Town. It was not noted what problems that were caused.

Mayor Henderson - We can say that accidents in the Town Platt are low, but could happen.

Susan Simms - Speeding is not the only thing that causes accidents; texting, drinking and driving, etc. I would like to know how many speeders are causing accidents.

Mayor Henderson - I have heard several complaints about walkers almost hit by cars. Some speeders have impacts like close calls and others no issues.

Susan Simms - There have been discussions about shrubs and branches blocking sight lines. King Street is extremely dangerous as it relates to tour buses parking at King Street and Queen Street, would Council look to change this?

Mayor Henderson - Council will take this under advisement and that is a good suggestion

Susan Simms - The BIA Levy, is there a dollar amount associated with that?

Mayor Henderson - The total expenses of the BIA is \$31,643.60. That is how much is collected and they do have an AGM coming up on November 5th at Sunbury Shores at 5:30 p.m. They have different expenditures for special events, beautification, administration, etc.

Susan Simms - So what was discussed, there is already a Levy in place?

Clerk Nopper - Every year under the BIA Act, we have to renew the BIA By-Law with the Levy. It has been maxed out at \$0.20 per \$100 assessment on businesses within the geographical area. This is housekeeping.

Susan Simms - Did the speed radars note did people speed coming into Town or heading out of Town?

Clerk Nopper - We set up on Parr Street and Montague Street moving towards the NBCC. It is an a monodirectional sign. So we were only able to check speeding in one direction but open to bringing back the radar and test again.

L. COUNCILLORS' AND DEPUTY MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Councillor Weare - I would like us to put the budget on the Agenda in much more detail than it is. I think there are structural errors in the budget and bias in the budget. This all stems from the time of annexation with the consultant during Local Governance Reform. Everyone conceded it was forced upon us without review and the part that bothers me is why we did not get any grant funds to look at the budget for 2024. I agree it was not complete and was used as the basis for the 2024 budget. Now we are using it as the basis of the 2025 budget. We are still dealing with the consultant's budget, which has errors. For example, why is the Town only charging \$27,000 to Public Streets for staff labour? That is one staff working minimum wage. We spent the entire Council Meeting on streets. No one has looked at the \$118,000 the Fire Department transfer to the Water Utility. We are paying one third of that from the Wards. My Neighbour and I are building a fire pond. I think, as I go down the budget and go through it, from 2023, everyone said yes it was flawed and forced upon us. We continue to use it and have yet to do something to review and change it. I recommend going on a \$0.00 based budget, not spending anything and go from there. There is an inherent bias in the budget. All the Administration should be allocated correctly. I think we have to go through the process, rubber hit the road. The other thing that made it jump out, was the meeting in Bayside, where the comment was made that any additional service you

want, it will cost you. I have never heard that said to residents for the Ward of Saint Andrews. We were warned we would have to pay for it. I was on the facilitation committee late, as the chair in Bayside went missing in action. I came on late and worked hard to make this happen. The only real decision we had was naming the Town. I was good with Saint Andrews but with the assurance Bayside and Chamcook would not lose their identity and should be named for the Wards. I think we need to move away from the old budget and build something new.

Mayor Henderson - We can go through this process if Council wants to. I was there during the naming process. I worried about branding, names, taxes, etc. Councillor Weare you were the first to say this community should be named Saint Andrews and to protect the names of Bayside and Chamcook. On the budget, I thought we had some alignment we were not going to do deep dives but continue to create one community. If we are going to take this deep dive, we need to set up a framework and timeline. We will need to look at all departments and determine the best estimates for equality, but are we willing in the end to say, now this is what you have to pay for, versus sharing the costs across the Wards? If this exercise goes dollar for dollar, then we all have to know what we are paying for. I do not think Bayside and Chamcook should be paying more than Saint Andrews. We got engagement by showing the Provincial formula and what could have been the Mill Rate in the mailout. We put that out, the Province did not. We got people engaged in a conversation and to ask questions.

Councillor Weare - What tweaked my attention was the comments from the residents of Bayside that were told that if you wanted more services you would have to pay for them. That is not how we have been working at the Council table. That is not how we build a unified people.

Mayor Henderson - In fairness, we have noted that for all services in the Town. If new services are wanted there is a cost and someone has to pay for it in the end.

Councillor Harland - I would agree that the comments might not have been the best but our CAO has spoken on this that there is a cost for services and how does Council want to pay for them. if someone wants something what are they prepared to pay or not pay for it and have to balance their expectations. For example the expanding Recreation Department, we knew would be seeking more funds for expanded services. It either has to come from new money or a change of services.

Mayor Henderson - We will add this conversation to the next budget meeting. My question to everyone is what is the outcome of doing this process? It may come out and say Bayside and Chamcook need to pay higher Mill Rates. So we need to be prepared for that.

Deputy Mayor Akagi - There is going to be the first Powwow at TD Station in Saint John on October 26th and 27th starting at 12:00 p.m. I would encourage everyone to go out and experience the event.

Councillor Harland - The Indulge event was great and thank you to the Town crews and staff for making it so seamless in setting up the event and making the community look great. Lots of positive comments.

M. MAYOR'S COMMENTS

N. CLOSED SESSION

O. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: 358 - 10/24

Moved by Deputy Mayor Akagi

Seconded by Councillor Gumushel

At 8:07 p.m. that the meeting be adjourned.

9 – 0

Carried



Brad Henderson, Mayor



Paul Nopper, Clerk - Senior
Administrator

