

**PUBLIC COUNCIL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 8<sup>TH</sup>, 2024**

A public council meeting was held at the Town of Stephenville Town office on Thursday February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The meeting was also streamed.

Present	Tom Rose	Mayor, Chairperson
	Susan Fowlow	Deputy Mayor
	Myra White	Councillor
	Laura Aylward	Councillor

Staff: Jennifer Brake, Town Clerk  
Mike Ratter, Economic Development Officer

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Rose called the meeting to order at 12:11 p.m.

**LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

We respectfully acknowledge the Town of Stephenville as the ancestral homeland of different populations of Indigenous people. We also acknowledge with respect, the rich histories and cultures of the Beothuk, Mi'kmaq, Innu and Inuit of the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**24-34** White/Aylward  
Be it resolved that the agenda be approved as presented.  
In Favor: 4 Fowlow, Rose, White, Aylward  
Opposed: 0 Carried

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**24-35** Fowlow/White  
Be it resolved that the minutes of January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024, public council meeting be approved as presented.  
In Favor: 4 Fowlow, Rose, White, Aylward  
Opposed: 0 Carried

**MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

None

**a. VIOLENCE PREVENTION MONTH**

Mayor Rose acknowledged he signed a proclamation declaring the month of February to be Violence Prevention Month in the Town of Stephenville.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Councillor White presented the recommendations from the finance committee meeting held on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

**Accounts Payable January 2024**

**24-36** White/Fowlow  
Be it Resolved to pay Accounts Payable for January 2024 in the amount of \$266,689.95.  
In Favor: 4 Fowlow, Rose, White, Aylward  
Opposed: 0 Carried

**Expense Cheques January 2024**

**24-37** White/Aylward  
Be it Resolved to pay Expense Cheques for January 2024 in the amount of \$420,646.48.  
In Favor: 4 Fowlow, Rose, White, Aylward  
Opposed: 0 Carried

**Request for Grant- Stephenville Rotary Music Festival**

**24-38** White/Fowlow  
Be it Resolved to give a grant in the amount of \$1,500.00 to the Stephenville Rotary Music Festival.  
In Favor: 4 Fowlow, Rose, White, Aylward  
Opposed: 0 Carried

**Request for Donation- Addictions Recovery Drop In Center**

**24-39** White/Aylward  
Be it Resolved to give a donation in the amount of \$2,500.00 to the Addictions Recovery Drop In Center.  
In Favor: 4 Fowlow, Rose, White, Aylward  
Opposed: 0 Carried

**Approval to Appoint Auditor**

**24-40** White/Aylward  
Be it Resolved to appoint Brian N. Hillier, CPA, CA as auditor for the Town of Stephenville.  
In Favor: 4 Fowlow, Rose, White, Aylward  
Opposed: 0 Carried

**Approval to Appoint Assessment Review Commissioner for the 2024 Calendar Year**

**24-41** White/Fowlow  
Be it Resolved to appoint Mr. Dennis Waterman as Assessment Review Commissioner.  
In Favor: 4 Fowlow, Rose, White, Aylward  
Opposed: 0 Carried

**Rescind Motion No. 23 – 392 - Adoption of Tax Rates & Fees 2024**

**24-42** White/Aylward  
Be it Resolved to rescind Motion No. 23-392 Tax Rates and Fees 2024 as presented.  
In Favor: 4 Fowlow, Rose, White, Aylward  
Opposed: 0 Carried

**Adoption of Tax Rates & Fees 2024**

**24-43** White/Fowlow  
Be it Resolved to approve to adopt 2024 Tax Rates & Fees Structure as circulated.  
In Favor: 4 Fowlow, Rose, White, Aylward  
Opposed: 0 Carried

**PERMITS AND MUNICIPAL PLAN**

Councillor Aylward presented the recommendations from the Planning and Traffic committee meeting held on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Mayor Rose, as the property owner for the next two items, declared a conflict of interest and left the council table. Deputy Mayor commenced as chairperson.

**Request to Revoke- Order No. 19-38**

**24-44** Aylward/White  
Be it resolved to revoke the Order to Cease and Desist (No. 19-38) for 45 Hillier Avenue under the provision of Section 102 (3) of the Urban and Rural Planning Act 2000 Chapter U-8 as amended.  
In Favor: 3 Fowlow, White, Aylward  
Opposed: 0 Carried

**Request to Subdivide Parcel Land – 45 Hillier Avenue**

**24-45** Alyward/White  
Be it resolved to approve subdivision of parcel of land known as 45 Hillier Avenue into two parcels to be named 45 & 49 Hillier Avenue.  
In Favor: 3 Fowlow, White, Aylward  
Opposed: 0 Carried

Mayor Rose upon conclusion of the items returned to the council table and resumed as chairperson.

## **BY-LAWS AND REGULATIONS**

None

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **Mayor Rose**

He provided a comparison between Orkney Islands in Scotland to the Port Aux Port Peninsula. Relative to being the same geographic size, the Orkney Island has 900 turbines, and world energy is expected to erect 124 on the peninsula.

He stated he joined a film crew from St. Johns that was filming a production on the role that indigenous veterans played in past wars and current conflicts. He recommended council having a discussion on identifying November 8 as Indigenous Veterans Day, as its recognized nationally.

Our economic development officer is working in partnership with Qalipu, College of the North Atlantic, and Francophone Association to build new hybrid daycare which would offer 50% core French and other 50% Mi'kmaw language training. The site location has been selected and the provincial government will provide extra funding to the Municipal Operating Grant. With the assistance of the College, we are hoping the building will become net zero building.

He addressed information being circulated that was leaked from a privileged meeting. Noting the town previously entered into tax agreement in lieu of taxes dating back to Abitibi Price, Port of Stephenville and now with Dymond Group. The Dymond Group plans to revitalize the infrastructure and attract business at the airport. They provide a service to the town, the airport radio is assisting with 911 dispatch. This service would cost the town an estimated \$300,000 - \$400,000 a year because extra staff would be required in the fire department.

Acknowledged the interest of twelve candidates running in the by-election

A new medical clinic is intended to be constructed by the 2024 and will play a pivotal role in attracting and retaining new professionals.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Deputy Mayor Fowlow**

Stated the town has recruited positions which will ease demands on existing staff. She apologized if anyone experienced delays due to staffing shortages. She thanked all employees for going above and beyond. Mayor Rose, Councillor White and Councillor Aylward all recognized the extra demands placed on staff and they thanked staff for their work and dedication.

**Mayor Rose**

Recognized the town is continuing to work on an accessibility Plan and should have it completed within couple weeks.

He acknowledged he received a welcoming message from a resident residing in Stephenville for the past thirteen years. She noted her satisfaction with the services, trails and the future growth anticipated for the town, while also recognizing the negativity that council face. Deputy Mayor Fowlow in response stated it's only a small number of people that make negative comments on social media, and the majority don't feel that way. She recognized the media wants a story to tell, and the negativity is affecting our reputation as a community. She urged people to contact the council if they have questions, rather than posting opinions. She noted the council is working hard and we don't always reveal the work until its ready to be communicated.

**Councillor Aylward**

She suggested individuals are making inaccurate comments online and she addressed that council decisions at the public meeting are discussed prior at committee meeting.

Stated the new medical clinic will be replacing Bay St. George Medical Clinic.

She recommended requesting a meeting with executive officials with Western Health for an update on recruitment.

**NOTICE OF MOTION**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

**24-46**

White/Fowlow

Resolved that since there is no further business the meeting adjourned at 1:06p.m.

In Favor: 4

Fowlow, Rose, White, Aylward

Opposed: 0

Carried