

SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING OF COUNCIL
August 28, 2024

A Special public council meeting was held at the Town of Stephenville Town office on Wednesday August 28, 2024. The meeting was also live streamed.

Present: Tom Rose Mayor
 Susan Fowlow Deputy Mayor
 Maurice Hynes Councillor
 Tom O'Brien Councillor (joined at 10:12 am)
 Darren Roberts Councillor
 Myra White Councillor
 Laura Aylward Councillor

Staff: Bill Ramsay, CAO
 Deputy CAO, Candace Simon
 Marilee Joy-Castillo, Communications Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER

24-270 Moved by Councillor Hynes, Seconded by Councillor White

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 am

In Favor: 6 Fowlow, Hynes, Roberts, Rose, White, Aylward
Opposed: 0 Carried

Land Acknowledgment

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

24-271 Moved by Councillor Roberts, Seconded by Councillor Hynes

Be it Resolved that the agenda for August 28, 2024 be approved as presented.

In Favor: 6 Fowlow, Hynes, Roberts, Rose, White, Aylward
Opposed: 0 Carried

CAO Ramsay

He explained the reason for this special meeting. The financial statements should be in as soon as the audit is done. There was some delays from the auditing company and in legislation this should be done by August 1 so rather than waiting for the September meeting of Council, it was brought forward as soon as possible.

As well there are things we are doing with municipal affairs which cannot be completed until these statements are accepted both for spending money and requesting money.

RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions are presented in relation to the financial statements being received from the auditor and reviewed by Council.

Approval of Audited Financial Statements

24-272 Moved by Councillor White, Seconded by Councillor Roberts

Be it resolved Council hereby approves the consolidated Financial Statements for the Town of Stephenville period ended December 31, 2023.

In Favor: 6 Aylward, Fowlow, Hynes, Roberts, Rose, White
Opposed: 0 Carried

Councillor Roberts gave an overview of the financial statements on behalf of the finance committee, as requested by Finance Chair Myra White.

Approval of Canada Community Building Fund Agreement

24-273 Moved by Councillor White, Seconded by Councillor O'Brien

Be it resolved that Council hereby approves the Annual Expenditure Report, Canada Community Building Fund Agreement for the Year ended December 31, 2023 as presented.

CAO Ramsay gave an overview of the CCBF and how it works. Mayor Rose noted that with our submission of the statements to municipal affairs, it will allow us to get approvals in September to get projects moving.

CAO RAMSAY

He noted that he recently attended a meeting with other municipalities and there seems to be a problem for all because the Municipal Capital Works approves projects in the Spring and then there is a long process of engineering and tendering as is the case with our project for downtown as it has not been fully finalized with Municipal affairs even though monies have been approved.

There is also a water improvement project for two new wells. He noted that it is hoped to do some advanced planning on this so that the town won't have to go to full tender,

and instead can go to tender under the engineering advisors because the water is such an important resource and it is very important to get these two new wells operating.

Councillor O'Brien

He noted a good example is the long drawn out process of Municipal Capital Works is with regards to Main Street, as it is almost September and that project has not gone to tender by the Government yet.

Mayor Rose

He expressed his disappointment in Municipal Affairs regarding Main Street. He noted the funding was announced three years ago, and coming out of Covid some things slowed down but that is no longer the case. If the timelines are not set when projects are approved then costs could rise for Municipalities.

CAO Ramsay

He noted that other Municipalities have had numerous projects that are coming in 25% or more over and they have make decisions on cutting back or placing the projects on hold until they can reassess their finances funding the difference in cost.

Deputy Mayor Fowlow

She noted that it can be frustrating for the public when projects are announced as approved, then the project gets held up by Government, the Council are the ones who are being blamed when in fact Council is ready to proceed however, it is out of their control. She stated that the Council deals with the small fixes that they are able to deal with but the larger projects Council has to wait on the other proponents before starting.

Councillor Aylwards

She feels that Council should write a letter or have a virtual meeting to let Municipal Affairs know that 3 years are not acceptable. Residents are wondering and we should try to get some answers for them.

Mayor Rose

He noted that once we get absolute word from Municipal Affairs that the Main Street project will not be proceeding this fall, then Council needs to prepare to do a strip repair on the patch that goes Western College to the Brown Derby to get through the Winter.

Councillor O'Brien

He stated that the Town should prepare now to do the Strip. By the time approval comes back and it goes to tender which can be another 3 weeks and gets analyzed, it will likely be November.

In Favor: 7 O'Brien, Aylward, Fowlow, Hynes, Roberts, Rose, White
Opposed: 0 Carried

**Approval of the Appointment of Financial Auditors & Accounting Firm
24-274** Moved by Councillor White, Seconded by Councillor Roberts

Be it resolved that Allen & Skinner CPA Professional Corporation, PO Box 352, Corner Brook, NL A2H 6C3 is hereby appointed as the Auditor and Accounting firm for the Town Council of the Town of Stephenville. This firm has changed ownership from the Town's previous accountant and auditors, "Brian N. Hiller, CPA, Accountant.

In Favor: 7 Fowlow, Aylward, O'Brien, Hynes, Roberts, Rose, White
Opposed: 0 Carried

Mayor Rose

He noted he attended the 50th Anniversary of Tae Kwon Do and commended Grand Master Wayne Simon, Master Leon Benoit and Master Dwayne Russell on everything they have accomplished. 800 Citizens have received their black belts over the last 50 years. He also noted that 22 years ago Stephenville hosted the Canadian Nationals and all those involved in Tae Kwon Do has enriched our Community.

Mayor Rose also noted that Kippens Resident Katarina Roxon is attending the Paralympics representing our Province and our Country, and was also named Flag bearer and we are very proud to say she trained here at the Regional Aquatic Centre and became a gold medalist on the world stage.

Councillor Aylward

She noted that her two nieces from Barachois Brook Rebecca and Georgia Lee, both received medals at the Powerlifting competition.

She also noted that she attended Nomad Stages production of Hadestown and the fire alarm went off during the show. She complimented the Fire Department on their quick response and commended the young people who had roles in the Production at the Arts and Culture Centre. Mayor Rose noted that Nomad Stages were hosting the Grand opening of their new space on Friday, August 30.

Mayor Rose

He noted that he did a story on the \$3 million upgrade to the YMCA. They will include a full retrofit including accessibility, turning it into a R20 building, a 300 square meter extension and a green sustainability hybrid system so it goes from fossil fuels to electric and will have solar panels. The YMCA has a long history and has produced many great athletes and leaders. CAO Ramsay noted that the town will contribute approximately \$500,000 to the upgrade.

ADJOURNMENT

24-275 Moved by Councillor O'Brien, Seconded by Councillor Roberts

Resolved that since there is no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:38 a.m.

In Favor:	7	Fowlow, Hynes, O'Brien, Roberts, Rose, White, Aylward
Opposed:	0	Carried

Mayor

Town Clerk