

ST. JOHN'S

Minutes of Committee of the Whole - City Council

Council Chambers, 4th Floor, City Hall

November 3, 2021, 9:30 a.m.

Present: Mayor Danny Breen
Councillor Maggie Burton
Councillor Ron Ellsworth
Councillor Sandy Hickman
Councillor Debbie Hanlon
Councillor Jill Bruce
Councillor Ophelia Ravencroft
Councillor Jamie Korab
Councillor Ian Froude
Councillor Carl Ridgeley

Regrets: Deputy Mayor Sheilagh O'Leary

Staff: Derek Coffey, Deputy City Manager of Finance & Administration
Tanya Haywood, Deputy City Manager of Community Services
Jason Sinyard, Deputy City Manager of Planning, Engineering & Regulatory Services
Lynnann Winsor, Deputy City Manager of Public Works
Susan Bonnell, Manager - Communications & Office Services
Karen Chafe, City Clerk
Jennifer Squires, Legislative Assistant

Others Linda Bishop, Senior Legal Counsel

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Approval of the Agenda**

Recommendation

Moved By Councillor Ravencroft

Seconded By Councillor Burton

That the agenda be adopted as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

3. Adoption of the Minutes

3.1 Adoption of Minutes - October 20, 2021

Recommendation

Moved By Councillor Hickman

Seconded By Councillor Froude

That the minutes of October 20, 2021, be adopted as presented.

For (10): Mayor Breen, Councillor Burton, Councillor Ellsworth, Councillor Hickman, Councillor Hanlon, Councillor Bruce, Councillor Ravencroft, Councillor Korab, Councillor Froude, and Councillor Ridgeley

MOTION CARRIED (10 to 0)

4. Presentations/Delegations

5. Finance & Administration - Councillor Ron Ellsworth

6. Public Works - Councillor Sandy Hickman

7. Community Services - Deputy Mayor Sheilagh O'Leary

8. Special Events - Councillor Debbie Hanlon

8.1 SERC – Churchill Park Music Festival 2022

Members of Council voiced their support of the festival and Councillor Burton encouraged the proponent to provide support to residents in the area to help ensure that the event runs smoothly.

Recommendation

Moved By Councillor Hanlon

Seconded By Councillor Froude

That Council approve the 2022 Churchill Park Music Festival for 4 event dates out of 6 noted below, 2 per weekend:

- Friday, August 12 - Sunday, August 14, 2022
- Friday, August 19 - Sunday, August 21, 2022

MOTION CARRIED

9. **Housing - Councillor Ophelia Ravencroft**
10. **Economic Development, Tourism & Immigration - Mayor Danny Breen**
11. **Arts & Culture - Councillor Debbie Hanlon**
12. **Governance & Strategic Priorities - Mayor Danny Breen**
13. **Planning - Councillor Ian Froude**
14. **Development - Councillor Jamie Korab**
15. **Transportation and Regulatory Services - Councillor Maggie Burton**

15.1 WWH Quidi Vidi Inner Gut Pilot Project

Councillor Burton provided an overview of the What We Heard Document concerning the Quidi Vidi Inner Gut Pilot Project, detailing the engagement process and feedback from residents and regular users of the area. Overall, feedback concerning the project has been positive and residents are in favour of expanding the scope of the project in subsequent years, making the "inner gut" car free throughout the summer months. The feedback received by Staff will help improve the project, and discussions concerning expansion will take place before next summer.

15.2 Taxi Rates Increase

Councillor Burton informed Council on the proposed increase in taxi rates. The last rate increase was in 2011, and since then there have been considerable increases in cost to drivers and operators, such as gas and insurance. Members of Council noted that although the increase may adversely affect lower-income residents, overall, it would be a positive step for the taxi industry and would make it possible for drivers to have a living wage. Councillor Ellsworth noted that there were a number of moonlight taxi services operating via social media which is further impacting the industry. The wage increase would require an amendment to the [St. John's Taxi Bylaw](#), as well as a communications plan to inform

residents of the increase. Staff will prepare a Notice of Motion for the next Regular Meeting of Council to begin the process. Councillor Burton noted the issues of taxi drivers, stand operators, and license holders are ongoing. She is scheduled to meet with taxi owners to discuss industry issues, as well as the rate increase, and report back to Council with any recommendations before the motion is ratified. The Mayor noted that the Provincial Government needs to be involved in the discussion surrounding taxis as they control the majority of legislation pertaining to the industry. Reference was also made to the possibility of imposing the increase on a phased in basis but no motion was forthcoming in that regard.

Recommendation

Moved By Councillor Burton

Seconded By Councillor Ellsworth

That Council approve an increase in taxi rates to:

- Flag Rate: \$4.50 (which includes first 1/10th of a km or part thereof);
- Distance Rate: \$2.50 per kilometre (charged at \$0.25 per 1/10th of a km or part thereof; and
- Waiting Rate: \$40.50 per hour waiting time while under engagement

MOTION CARRIED

16. **Sustainability - Councillor Maggie Burton & Councillor Ian Froude**

17. **Other Business**

18. **Adjournment**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:53 a.m.

Mayor