

Minutes of Regular Meeting - City Council Council Chamber, 4th Floor, City Hall

June 25, 2024, 3:00 p.m.

Present: Deputy Mayor Sheilagh O'Leary

Councillor Maggie Burton
Councillor Ron Ellsworth
Councillor Sandy Hickman

Councillor Jill Bruce

Councillor Ophelia Ravencroft

Councillor Jamie Korab
Councillor Tom Davis
Councillor Carl Ridgeley

Regrets: Mayor Danny Breen

Councillor Debbie Hanlon

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

Cheryl Mullett, City Solicitor

Ken O'Brien, Chief Municipal Planner

Karen Chafe, City Clerk

Jackie O'Brien, Manager of Communications
David Crowe, Manager - Roads, Public Works

Christine Carter, Legislative Assistant

Land Acknowledgement

The following statement was read into the record:

"We respectfully acknowledge the Province of Newfoundland & Labrador, of which the City of St. John's is the capital City, as the ancestral homelands of the Beothuk. Today, these lands are home to a diverse population of indigenous and other peoples. We would also like to acknowledge with respect the diverse histories and cultures of the Mi'kmaq, Innu, Inuit, and Southern Inuit of this Province."

1. CALL TO ORDER

Acting Mayor, Sheilagh O'Leary, called the meeting to order at 3:10 pm.

2. PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

2.1 Proclamation - World Refugee Day

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

3.1 Adoption of Agenda

SJMC-R-2024-06-25/294

Moved By Councillor Ravencroft
Seconded By Councillor Davis

That the Agenda be adopted as presented.

For (9): Deputy Mayor O'Leary, Councillor Burton, Councillor Ellsworth, Councillor Hickman, Councillor Bruce, Councillor Ravencroft, Councillor Korab, Councillor Davis, and Councillor Ridgeley

MOTION CARRIED (9 to 0)

4. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

4.1 Adoption of Minutes - June 11, 2024

SJMC-R-2024-06-25/295

Moved By Councillor Hickman

Seconded By Councillor Ridgeley

That the minutes of June 11, 2024, be adopted as presented.

For (9): Deputy Mayor O'Leary, Councillor Burton, Councillor Ellsworth, Councillor Hickman, Councillor Bruce, Councillor Ravencroft, Councillor Korab, Councillor Davis, and Councillor Ridgeley

MOTION CARRIED (9 to 0)

5. <u>BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES</u>

6. DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

6.1 Request for Parking Relief – 3 Cabot Street – INT2400026

Members of Council expressed their support for the requested parking relief as this is a very walkable area, with readily available transit, and that those using this lodging house may not require parking.

The importance of allowing parking relief to achieve these much-needed accommodations was also noted.

SJMC-R-2024-06-25/296

Moved By Councillor Ridgeley
Seconded By Councillor Ravencroft

That Council approve parking relief at 3 Cabot Street for two (2) parking space to accommodate the proposed Lodging House.

For (9): Deputy Mayor O'Leary, Councillor Burton, Councillor Ellsworth, Councillor Hickman, Councillor Bruce, Councillor Ravencroft, Councillor Korab, Councillor Davis, and Councillor Ridgeley

MOTION CARRIED (9 to 0)

6.2 <u>Proposed Expansion of Non-Conforming Use for a Media Booth – 15</u> <u>Carnell Drive – DEV2400078</u>

Councillor Hickman advised that this media booth is required for the 2025 Canada Games and will be built in a section of the bleachers and will not be taking away any part of the field.

SJMC-R-2024-06-25/297

Moved By Councillor Ridgeley Seconded By Councillor Korab

That Council approve the expansion of a Non-Conforming Use in the Floodplain Buffer at 15 Carnell Drive for a media booth.

For (9): Deputy Mayor O'Leary, Councillor Burton, Councillor Ellsworth, Councillor Hickman, Councillor Bruce, Councillor Ravencroft, Councillor Korab, Councillor Davis, and Councillor Ridgeley

MOTION CARRIED (9 to 0)

6.3 Request to Rebuild and Expand Accessory Building in the Watershed (Town of Portugal Cove-St. Philips) – 961 Thorburn Road— INT2400036

As the Staff is recommending rejection of this request due to the number of accessory buildings currently on the property, the question was asked whether there will be further follow up with this property as they are currently in violation of the City of St. John's Act with multiple accessory buildings currently on the property, in the watershed.

The Deputy City Manager of Planning, Engineering and Regulatory Services advised that it will be investigated but unsure of the action to be taken, as it depends on the age of the accessory buildings.

SJMC-R-2024-06-25/298

Moved By Councillor Ridgeley Seconded By Councillor Ellsworth

That Council reject the request for the replacement of the Accessory Building in the Watershed at 961 Thoburn Road, Town of Portugal Cove-St. Philip's as only one Accessory Building may be considered on a property where two other Accessory Buildings are already located.

For (9): Deputy Mayor O'Leary, Councillor Burton, Councillor Ellsworth, Councillor Hickman, Councillor Bruce, Councillor Ravencroft, Councillor Korab, Councillor Davis, and Councillor Ridgeley

MOTION CARRIED (9 to 0)

6.4 Request for Increase in Height of Accessory Building in the Watershed (Town of Portugal Cove – St. Phillip's) – 4 Bemister's Road – INT2400039

SJMC-R-2024-06-25/299

Moved By Councillor Ridgeley Seconded By Councillor Bruce

That Council approve a height increase to 4 metres for an Accessory Building in the Watershed at 4 Bemister's Road, Town of Portugal Cove-St. Philip's.

For (9): Deputy Mayor O'Leary, Councillor Burton, Councillor Ellsworth, Councillor Hickman, Councillor Bruce, Councillor Ravencroft, Councillor Korab, Councillor Davis, and Councillor Ridgeley

MOTION CARRIED (9 to 0)

6.5 Notices Published – 169 Doyle's Road – DEV2400028

It was clarified that this is the last building lot in this housing development on Doyles Road.

SJMC-R-2024-06-25/300

Moved By Councillor Ridgeley Seconded By Councillor Burton

That Council approve the Discretionary Use for a Single Detached Dwelling at 169 Doyles Road.

MOTION CARRIED (9 to 0)

6.6 Notices Published – 442 Water Street – DEV2400066

The Acting Mayor noted that it is interesting to see a main floor application for a dwelling unit in this area of Water Street, as they are usually on the second or other floors.

It was clarified by the Deputy City Manager of Planning, Engineering and Regulatory Services that in these zones, allowing residential on the ground floor is at the discretion of Council as it is normally for commercial use. Council would generally see the request for transition of commercial to residential on the ground floor, more frequently, and the recommendation varies depending on the location of downtown, but Staff have no concern with the conversion of this into a residential unit.

It was noted that in this block it is unusual to see this request, but as it is close to other residential areas, support was given.

SJMC-R-2024-06-25/301

Moved By Councillor Ridgeley **Seconded By** Councillor Ravencroft

That Council approve the Discretionary Use application for a Dwelling Unit on the 1st storey at 442 Water Street.

For (9): Deputy Mayor O'Leary, Councillor Burton, Councillor Ellsworth, Councillor Hickman, Councillor Bruce, Councillor Ravencroft, Councillor Korab, Councillor Davis, and Councillor Ridgeley

MOTION CARRIED (9 to 0)

7. RATIFICATION OF EPOLLS

7.1 <u>2024079 – Goulds Fire Station</u>

SJMC-R-2024-06-25/302

Moved By Councillor Ridgeley Seconded By Councillor Korab THAT Council ratify the award for this open call to highest ranked proponent as determined by the City's evaluation team, Stantec Consulting Ltd., for \$999,108.50 (HST Incl.) as per the Public Procurement Act. Note, this was approved by way of ePoll on June 12, 2024.

For (9): Deputy Mayor O'Leary, Councillor Burton, Councillor Ellsworth, Councillor Hickman, Councillor Bruce, Councillor Ravencroft, Councillor Korab, Councillor Davis, and Councillor Ridgeley

MOTION CARRIED (9 to 0)

8. <u>COMMITTEE REPORTS</u>

8.1 Committee of the Whole Report - June 18, 2024

Councillor Hickman advised that the five amendments, discussed at the Committee of the Whole meeting last week, will be deferred to the next Regular meeting of Council.

SJMC-R-2024-06-25/303

Moved By Councillor Hickman **Seconded By** Councillor Ellsworth

Defer discussion on the proposed amendment(s) to the Commercial Maintenance By-Law, Electrical By-Law, Open Air Fire Regulations, Plumbing By-Law and St. John's Sign By-Law to the next Regular Meeting of Council.

For (9): Deputy Mayor O'Leary, Councillor Burton, Councillor Ellsworth, Councillor Hickman, Councillor Bruce, Councillor Ravencroft, Councillor Korab, Councillor Davis, and Councillor Ridgeley

MOTION CARRIED (9 to 0)

1. Update on the Paid Parking Management Strategy (PPMS)

Councillor Hickman provided an overview of the previously discussed changes to the Paid Parking Management Strategy.

SJMC-R-2024-06-25/304

Moved By Councillor Hickman Seconded By Councillor Ellsworth

That Council approved the ongoing implementation of the Paid Parking Management Strategy, including:

- 1) Convert the timed parking area on LeMarchant Road to paid parking.
- 2) Implement a long stay parking rate on Ricketts Road (zone 1399).
- 3) Implement a long stay parking rate on Harvey Road.
- 4) Reduce Commercial Parking permit monthly rates to the following amounts (plus tax):
 - Prince Street Lot \$150
 - City Hall Garage Level 5 \$100
 - Central/ Livingstone Street \$100
 - Queen's Road \$80
 - Gower Street \$80
 - Plymouth Road \$60
 - Water Street East \$60

MOTION CARRIED (9 to 0)

8.2 Audit Committee Report - June 19

1. <u>Audit Committee Report - June 19</u>

Councilor Davis inquired as to whether these statements are cash or accrual basis. Staff advised that they are prepared on an accrual basis, and that the actuals will be brought forward to Council soon.

SJMC-R-2024-06-25/305

Moved By Councillor Korab

Seconded By Councillor Ellsworth

That Council approve the December 31, 2023 Audited Financial Statements and the 2023 Draft Consolidated Statements

For (9): Deputy Mayor O'Leary, Councillor Burton, Councillor Ellsworth, Councillor Hickman, Councillor Bruce, Councillor Ravencroft, Councillor Korab, Councillor Davis, and Councillor Ridgeley

MOTION CARRIED (9 to 0)

9. DEVELOPMENT PERMITS LIST (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

9.1 <u>Development Permits List June 6 - 19, 2024</u>

10. BUILDING PERMITS LIST (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

10.1 **Building Permits List**

11. REQUISITIONS, PAYROLLS AND ACCOUNTS

11.1 Weekly Payment Vouchers for the Week Ending June 12 and 19, 2024

SJMC-R-2024-06-25/306

Moved By Councillor Bruce

Seconded By Councillor Ellsworth

That the weekly payment vouchers for the weeks ending June 12 and June 19, 2024, in the amount of \$13,115,920.63, be approved as presented.

For (9): Deputy Mayor O'Leary, Councillor Burton, Councillor Ellsworth, Councillor Hickman, Councillor Bruce, Councillor Ravencroft, Councillor Korab, Councillor Davis, and Councillor Ridgeley

MOTION CARRIED (9 to 0)

12. <u>TENDERS/RFPS</u>

12.1 Single Axle Plow Trucks/2024095

Councillor Davis asked the number of trucks that are to be purchased through this open call, and it was confirmed that it is for the purchase of three trucks.

SJMC-R-2024-06-25/307

Moved By Councillor Korab

Seconded By Councillor Ravencroft

THAT Council approve for award this open call to the sole bidder meeting specifications, Hickman Truck Centre, for \$1,358,410.77 (HST not included) as per the Public Procurement Act. In addition to the bid price, there exists potential for an additional payment to the successful proponent of up to \$30,000.00 (HST not included), if specific contractual requirements are satisfied.

For (9): Deputy Mayor O'Leary, Councillor Burton, Councillor Ellsworth, Councillor Hickman, Councillor Bruce, Councillor Ravencroft, Councillor Korab, Councillor Davis, and Councillor Ridgeley

MOTION CARRIED (9 to 0)

12.2 <u>2024122 - Lambe's Lane Upgrade</u>

SJMC-R-2024-06-25/308

Moved By Councillor Hickman

Seconded By Councillor Davis

That Council approve for award this open call to the lowest bidder meeting specifications, Bursey Excavating & Development Inc., for \$776,603.05 (HST Incl.) as per the Public Procurement Act.

For (9): Deputy Mayor O'Leary, Councillor Burton, Councillor Ellsworth, Councillor Hickman, Councillor Bruce, Councillor Ravencroft, Councillor Korab, Councillor Davis, and Councillor Ridgeley

MOTION CARRIED (9 to 0)

12.3 2024107 - 2024 Water and Sewer Improvements

SJMC-R-2024-06-25/309

Moved By Councillor Korab

Seconded By Councillor Ridgeley

That Council approve for award this open call to the lowest bidder meeting specifications, Precision Excavation Ltd., for \$2,398,900.00 (HST incl.) as per the Public Procurement Act.

For (9): Deputy Mayor O'Leary, Councillor Burton, Councillor Ellsworth, Councillor Hickman, Councillor Bruce, Councillor Ravencroft, Councillor Korab, Councillor Davis, and Councillor Ridgeley

MOTION CARRIED (9 to 0)

13. NOTICES OF MOTION, RESOLUTIONS QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

13.1 Notice of Motion - Amendment to the Commercial Maintenance By-<u>Law</u>

Councillor Sandy Hickman gave the following Notice of Motion:

TAKE NOTICE that I will at the next Regular Meeting of the St. John's Municipal Council move to amend the St. John's Commercial Maintenance By-Law to add provisions related to the securing and maintenance of vacant commercial buildings and to add provisions related to certification and working condition of heating systems.

13.2 Notice of Motion - Amendment to the Electrical By-Law

Councillor Sandy Hickman gave the following Notice of Motion:

TAKE NOTICE that I will at the next Regular Meeting of the St. John's Municipal Council move to amend the St. John's Electrical By-Law to update the reference to the Canadian Electrical Code, 2024, and to make the process by which certification is accepted and the authorization of supply of electrical energy is given more efficient.

13.3 <u>Notice of Motion - Amendment to the Open-Air Fire Regulations By-</u> <u>Law</u>

Councillor Sandy Hickman gave the following Notice of Motion:

TAKE NOTICE that I will at the next Regular Meeting of the St. John's Municipal Council move to amend the Open-Air Fire Regulations By-Law to update the By-Law to take into account the equipment people currently use for outdoor fires and to modernize provisions of the bylaw following consultation with the Fire Department.

13.4 Notice of Motion - Amendment to the Plumbing By-Law

Councillor Sandy Hickman gave the following Notice of Motion:

TAKE NOTICE that I will at the next Regular Meeting of the St. John's Municipal Council move to amend the St. John's Plumbing By-Law to make the process by which certification is accepted and the authorization of the use of the plumbing system is given more efficient.

13.5 Notice of Motion - Amendment to the Sign By-Law

Councillor Sandy Hickman gave the following Notice of Motion:

TAKE NOTICE that I will at the next Regular Meeting of the St. John's Municipal Council move to amend the St. John's Sign By-Law to revise provisions related to the enforcement of signs placed on utility poles.

14. NEW BUSINESS

14.1 Lease – City land in front of 134 Military Road

SJMC-R-2024-06-25/310

Moved By Councillor Ravencroft

Seconded By Councillor Bruce

That Council approve the lease of City land at the front of 134 Military Road, as shown in red on the attached diagram, to allow the construction of an accessible ramp.

MOTION CARRIED (9 to 0)

14.2 <u>Travel Authorization – World Energy Cities Partnership AGM & Offshore Northern Seas Global Energy Forum</u>

SJMC-R-2024-06-25/311

Moved By Councillor Ellsworth Seconded By Councillor Korab

That Council approve the costs associated with Mayor Breen's travel to Stavanger, Norway for the 2024 WECP AGM and ONS.

For (9): Deputy Mayor O'Leary, Councillor Burton, Councillor Ellsworth, Councillor Hickman, Councillor Bruce, Councillor Ravencroft, Councillor Korab, Councillor Davis, and Councillor Ridgeley

MOTION CARRIED (9 to 0)

14.3 Lease of City Land in front of 9 George Street

SJMC-R-2024-06-25/312

Moved By Councillor Ravencroft **Seconded By** Councillor Ridgeley

That Council approve the lease of City land at the front of 9 George Street, as delineated in blue on the attached diagram, to allow the construction of permanent patio.

For (9): Deputy Mayor O'Leary, Councillor Burton, Councillor Ellsworth, Councillor Hickman, Councillor Bruce, Councillor Ravencroft, Councillor Korab, Councillor Davis, and Councillor Ridgeley

MOTION CARRIED (9 to 0)

14.4 Sale of City land adjacent to 69 Field Street

SJMC-R-2024-06-25/313

Moved By Councillor Ravencroft **Seconded By** Councillor Ridgeley

That Council approve the sale of a portion of City land at the side of 69 Field Street, as indicated in red on the attached diagram.

MOTION CARRIED (9 to 0)

14.5 Laurentic Forum – Request for Reception

SJMC-S-2024-06-25/314

Moved By Councillor Ravencroft Seconded By Councillor Bruce

That Council sponsor a reception for the Laurentic Forum to be held in St. John's in September 2024.

For (9): Deputy Mayor O'Leary, Councillor Burton, Councillor Ellsworth, Councillor Hickman, Councillor Bruce, Councillor Ravencroft, Councillor Korab, Councillor Davis, and Councillor Ridgeley

MOTION CARRIED (9 to 0)

14.6 Recreation Master Plan What We Heard

Councillor Bruce provided an overview of the development of the City of St. John's Recreation Masterplan, and noted some of the highlights from the engagement process:

- Recreation services are highly valued by residents.
- Residents expressed a desire for more neighbourhood level facilities and services to participate in recreation close to home.
- More consistent information sharing and ease of accessing information online.
- Improve and address transportation barriers to access programs and services.
- Affordability should be a focus on future planning, along with enhancing accessibility and inclusive opportunities.
- Importance of working with community partners, including sport and recreation organizations, schools and educational institutions, and health and social organizations.

Councillor Bruce thanked the City's Staff for their great work on this engagement and advised that the consultants will prepare a draft of the Recreation Masterplan for review with Staff and stakeholders, and that a final draft will be provided to Council for approval.

14.7 <u>"Year of the Arts" Mural Project</u>

Councillor Hickman updated Council on the Year of the Arts mural project and advised that thirteen submissions were received, and the selection committee (representing the local visual arts community and City Staff) has chosen the submission from artist Jerry Evans as the successful proposal.

City staff will continue to work with the selected artist to carry out the project with completion of the mural expected by Fall 2024.

14.8 <u>SERC – 2024 Summer Events 3</u>

The Acting Mayor noted that with the upcoming important commemorative events and the expected numbers coming to the downtown, residents should consider using public transit or to walk when coming to participate.

SJMC-R-2024-06-25/315

Moved By Councillor Bruce

Seconded By Councillor Ravencroft

That Council approve the following events: Memorial Day Dress Rehearsal on June 29, Memorial Day Centennial Parade and Ceremony on July 1, and Folk Festival on July 12 – 14.

For (9): Deputy Mayor O'Leary, Councillor Burton, Councillor Ellsworth, Councillor Hickman, Councillor Bruce, Councillor Ravencroft, Councillor Korab, Councillor Davis, and Councillor Ridgeley

MOTION CARRIED (9 to 0)

14.9 <u>Text Amendment – Housing - Adoption</u>

Members of Council discussed the proposed text amendment and the feedback received from both public meetings, the Engage page, written submissions and the development professionals focus-group meeting.

Key themes:

- Parking concerns were raised that parking minimums should be removed, and Backyard Suites and Subsidiary Apartments should not require parking. Questions were raised on how the City developed its current parking requirements.
- Building Height some residents objected to increasing the current building heights, in particular in the Downtown.
- The changes will cause an increase in poorly maintained properties
 there is a belief that increasing the type of housing permitted in

various zones will increase the number of poorly maintained properties.

- Irregular lots and minimum setback requirements some submissions asked the City to consider a reduced minimum setback for irregularly shaped lots.
- Concerns for potential demolitions in Heritage Areas there is a request for more protection in Heritage Areas for houses and buildings that are not designated.
- The City should focus development on vacant lots and buildings.
- The City should add more housing types to the Residential 1 (R1)
 Zone.
- Making the floor area of two Subsidiary Dwelling Units less than the main dwelling in a Single Detached Dwelling may be limiting.
- Developers wanted to be involved earlier in the process.
- John's Urban Forest Management Master Plan (2006) and landscaping. There are concerns that increased residential density will decrease trees and landscaped areas.

It was also noted that should the amendment be adopted, staff will review and bring forward any required changes to the heritage design standards of the St. John's Heritage By-Law. For example, standards will have to be set for Backyard Suites in Heritage Areas.

The next steps in this process, once adopted, is that the amendment will be forwarded to the Department of Municipal and Provincial Affairs for registration.

Council members added that these amendments are necessary, and this is a great first step in the process, and that changes can be made as required. Transit, affordability, and creating a livable City are also key pieces of this initiative. Neighbourhood Plans are also to be developed and meetings will be held in each of the zones for engagement.

Members of the public were encouraged to read through the materials to understand the amendments and that to see how important these changes are.

Council thanked the Staff for their tremendous work on these amendments and encouraged them to reach out to Council on any issues that may need to be addressed.

SJMC-R-2024-06-25/316

Moved By Councillor Burton
Seconded By Councillor Ellsworth

That Council adopt the attached Envision St. John's Development Regulations Amendment Number 37, 2024, to amend various regulations related to housing, in particular to enable a greater variety of housing types in residential zones.

For (9): Deputy Mayor O'Leary, Councillor Burton, Councillor Ellsworth, Councillor Hickman, Councillor Bruce, Councillor Ravencroft, Councillor Korab, Councillor Davis, and Councillor Ridgeley

MOTION CARRIED (9 to 0)

15. OTHER BUSINESS

16. <u>ACTION ITEMS RAISED BY COUNCIL</u>

- The impact of diverting traffic through Waterford Bridge Road, due to the viaduct closure, was raised by Councillor Korab. As this is a residential neighbourhood with a school, Councillor Korab asked that it be reconsidered for traffic calming by City Staff. It was agreed that the discussion of Waterford Bridge Road Traffic Calming will be on a future Committee of the Whole Agenda.
- Councillor Ellsworth referenced a letter received by the City from DEWCOR, signed by Mr. Danny Williams, which accuses him of a conflict of interest for recommending approval of the City's Capital Budget and his real estate listings at Goldstone Street and Thorburn Road and Goldstone intersection. Councillor Ellsworth also read aloud the City's response sent to Mr. Williams regarding the allegation. In the letter, it noted that regarding the conflict-of-interest allegation, the motion to approve the City's 2024 capital budget was moved by Councillor Korab and seconded by Councillor Bruce. The vote was unanimous, with Councillor Ellsworth abstaining.

17. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:55 pm.	
	MAYOF

CITY CLERK