



**COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FORT SMITH
SPECIAL MEETING SP-02-17
THE SECOND SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL FOR
THE YEAR 2017**

PRESENT: Mayor L. Napier-Buckley D/M K. Smith
 Cr. A. Kikoak Cr. R. Holtorf
 Cr. A. Dumont Cr. B. McArthur
 Cr. B. Tuckey Cr. E. Bell

REGRETS: Cr. R. Patel

STAFF: Keith Morrison, Senior Administrative Officer

Special Meeting SP-02-17 7:00 PM
March 28, 2017 Council Chambers

The purpose of the Special Meeting is to have Third Reading of Bylaws 974 and 975, Third Reading of Bylaws 976 and 977, review Government of the Northwest Territories Annual Contribution Agreements, and discuss the NWT Association of Communities AGM.

A. CALL TO ORDER & CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

Mayor Napier-Buckley called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and confirmed quorum of Council was present.

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

17-081 Moved by: Cr. McArthur Seconded by: Cr. Dumont That the agenda be adopted as presented. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. DISCUSSION

Bylaw 974 Appoint Fire Chief Karl Cox Third Reading

17-082 Moved by: D/M Smith Seconded by: Cr. Dumont That Bylaw 974 Appoint Fire Chief Karl Cox be given Third Reading by title only. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
--

Bylaw 975 Appoint Bylaw Officer Karl Cox Third Reading

17-083 Moved by: Cr. Dumont Seconded by: Cr. Bell That Bylaw 975 Appoint Bylaw Officer Karl Cox be given Third Reading by title only. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
--

Cr. Kikoak entered the meeting at 7:04 pm.

Bylaw 976 2017 Mill Rate Third Reading

17-084 Moved by: Cr. McArthur
Seconded by: Cr. Tuckey

That Bylaw 976 2017 Mill Rate be given Third Reading by title only.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Bylaw 977 2017 Annual Borrowing Bylaw Third Reading

17-085 Moved by: Cr. Bell
Seconded by: Cr. Dumont

That Bylaw 977 2017 Annual Borrowing be given Third Reading by title only.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

O&M Funding Contribution Agreement – D/ M Smith noted that last year’s funding was increased by \$60,000 and asked if the funding is being increased by an additional \$59,000 for the current year. Administration confirmed this and advised that the money is additional and unbudgeted for.

17-086 Moved by: Cr. McArthur
Seconded by: Cr. Tuckey

That the Operations and Maintenance Funding Contribution Agreement with MACA for the fiscal year 2017-2018 in the amount of \$1,979,000 be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Water and Sewer Subsidy Funding Contribution Agreement – Cr. Tuckey was pleased that the current year’s Water and Sewer Subsidy funding has been increased by \$28,000. Administration noted that this funding is also additional revenue and unbudgeted for.

17-087 Moved by: Cr. Tuckey
Seconded by: D/M Smith

That the Water and Sewer Subsidy Funding Contribution Agreement with MACA for fiscal year 2017-2018 in the amount of \$522,000 be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NWT Association of Communities AGM – Mayor Napier-Buckley had requested that Councillors prepare resolutions for the AGM as the deadline for submission is April 1st.

Cr. Kikoak declared the following resolution:

Be it resolved that the NWTAC reduce the number of rooms required to host the NWTAC AGM to forty-five or fifty rooms to provide Fort Smith the opportunity to host the meetings.

Mayor Napier-Buckley advised that the number of rooms is determined by the number of delegates attending the AGM. Cr. Kikoak asked if there is a recorded number of delegates from the past few years. Mayor Napier-Buckley advised that motion 2016-01 determines the NWTAC AGM has increased in delegates over the years and that there are only three communities in the north with adequate accommodations to host the AGM; Yellowknife, Inuvik and Hay River. The motion also states that until another community has adequate accommodations available the AGM be held through a rotation of the three communities. Mayor Napier-Buckley suggested that previous resolution be modified to include Fort Smith in the rotation. Cr. Kikoak felt that as Fort Smith is hosting the AWGs, that the NWTAC AGM could be accommodated.

Cr. Tuckey noted that the deadline for resolutions has been extended to April 7th.

Cr. Holtorf noted that the GNWT had hired a Convention Coordinator who was to come to Fort Smith and other communities in the NWT to determine resources and capacity. He asked if this information had been accumulated. D/M Smith confirmed this and believes it predated the opening of the Wood Buffalo Inn. He advised that the NWTAC has always deemed Fort Smith as not having enough accommodations as they require approximately 100 rooms. He noted that college housing is generally available in May and could possibly be used. He also noted that the NWTAC has hosted the AGM in Fort Simpson and Tuktoyaktuk in the past. He felt that part of the issue may be the cost for delegates to travel to Fort Smith. D/M Smith advised that the NWTAC Board of Directors is heavily populated by smaller communities from the Beaufort Delta and Sahtu Regions. Mayor Napier-Buckley felt that travel costs to Fort Smith would be similar to travel costs to Hay River. Administration advised that one of the expectations of the EDO is to determine the Town's capacity and room count to leverage convention opportunities. He noted that the NWTAC is one of many conventions that the Town could potentially participate in. Mayor Napier-Buckley advised that she was the only delegate that voted in opposition of the resolution made in 2016 to only host the AGM in the three larger communities and as a result, noted that the other communities would need to be lobbied to vote in favour of the resolution.

D/M Smith noted that a lot of current and standing resolutions are specific to community or regional needs and suggested a resolution on decentralization in support of GNWT positions. He presented a draft resolution to put forth on decentralization. Mayor Napier-Buckley advised that there are no motions with respect to decentralization under the 2016 standing resolutions.

As long as the GNWT has a policy to support decentralization of government services and positions; and

Whereas NWT communities rely on economic decentralization to support their local economies;

Therefore, be it resolved that the GNWT put greater emphasis on ensuring that GNWT positions are equitably distributed throughout NWT communities.

Cr. Dumont is in favour of the resolution to support decentralization.

Mayor Napier-Buckley asked if any other Councillors had resolutions to put forward. She advised that she has a few.

Mayor Napier-Buckley advised that in 2015, the Village of Fort Simpson had put forward a resolution with respect to riverbank and shoreline erosion. She presented the resolution to Council and advised that when it was to be reaffirmed in 2016, MACA had advised that they were working to make improvements sought out in the resolution. Mayor Napier-Buckley asked what work was being done in the Fort Smith area and was advised that the resolution did not apply to Fort Smith as the resolution applied to communities that are at water level. She will modify the resolution to include Fort Smith as the landslide area puts the lagoon and water intake at risk. Administration advised that MACA had previously authored a document that identified the various risks that threatened various communities, and doesn't think that they had identified landslide or erosion as a risk to Fort Smith, although flooding was identified. D/M Smith noted disapproval with NWTAC as MACA makes their own interpretations of the resolutions put forward. He felt that the resolution would be specific to all communities located near riverbanks facing soil erosion. Mayor Napier-Buckley will make it clear through the modified resolution of the significant riverbank issues Fort Smith has.

Mayor Napier-Buckley suggested a resolution with respect to Aurora College funding be presented. She noted that the Skills4Success Report identifies job shortages over the next twenty to thirty years and that adequate funding is required to run programs that support the Skills4Success identified needs. It was also noted that the college will be performing a fundamental review of the programs at the college. Cr. Tuckey advised that she had received a briefing note from the NWTAC which stated that there would be \$90 million available over the next two-years from the federal government to be spent on post-secondary indigenous studies. She felt that it looked bad on the GNWT removing funding from the Aurora College, while the federal government is supporting indigenous studies. She would like to further discuss this during the NWTAC AGM. Cr. Tuckey will draft the resolution. Mayor Napier-Buckley noted that the Minister had advised that the outcome of the fundamental review may not affect program funding. D/M Smith noted the disconnect between ECE and the college and asked what is the point in having a labour analysis if the data will not be used.

Mayor Napier-Buckley proposed a resolution to change the fiscal year for tax based communities. She noted the difficult position the Town is placed in while legislated to end the fiscal year on December 31st as GNWT funding isn't released until March 31st. Additionally, she noted that newly elected Councils are faced with approving budget with little background knowledge on the budgeting process. Cr. Tuckey and Cr. McArthur support the resolution. Mayor Napier-Buckley will prepare the wording. D/M Smith noted that there was a resolution brought forward previously although it wasn't acted on. He still recommends bringing the resolution forward to open discussion. Administration advised that MACA is aware of the issue and noted that it will be looked at through the review of the CTV Act. He felt that reaffirming the resolution would bring the issue priority in the review of the Act.

Mayor Napier-Buckley proposed a resolution for the GNWT to Fire Smart untenured Commissioner's Land within municipal boundaries. Cr. Tuckey noted that the Minister of ENR had identified Fort Smith and Fort Resolution as the most at risk communities for forest fires in the NWT. Cr. Tuckey suggested lobbying Fort Resolution as they are at risk also. Mayor Napier-Buckley noted that a letter with respect to the issue was sent to MACA, Lands and ENR, although she felt that more attention could be given to the matter if addressed and lobbied at the NWTAC.

Mayor Napier-Buckley advised that the CRTC had ruled in December to provide broadband internet to rural locations. She proposed a resolution be made that the GNWT expedite the implementation of the CRTC ruling throughout the territories for broadband internet due to high internet costs and low internet quality. Mayor Napier-Buckley advised that she would like the ruling implemented whether through competition or by NWTel's implementation. Administration isn't sure if the GNWT has authority over this as the Federal Government is the regulator. Mayor Napier-Buckley noted that there was a reaffirmed resolution in 2015 in regards to CRTC telecoms. Cr. Tuckey suggested that the existing resolution be modified to add the rulings of the CRTC. D/M Smith noted that the NWTAC can bring the resolution forth to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities for action.

Mayor Napier-Buckley asked if any Councillors had resolutions to bring forth. Cr. Holtorf would like a resolution brought forward for communities to recognize the importance of the TRC findings and calls for action. Mayor Napier-Buckley noted that the majority of the calls for action are addressed to the federal and territorial governments and suggested that territorial government be addressed in the resolution. Cr. Tuckey noted calls for action that could be referenced in referring to Aurora College funding.

Administration requested a motion be made approving the resolutions or that they be approved at an additional special meeting once the resolutions have been drafted for approval. Cr. Tuckey noted that the guidelines for submission do not require a motion of Council. Cr. Holtorf feels that approval by motion would be required. Administration noted issues in the past from other communities acting independently without the will of Council. Mayor Napier-Buckley requested a special meeting be held after Corporate Services on April 4th to approve the resolutions by title.

Mayor Napier-Buckley reviewed the resolutions before Council. She advised that there is a resolution for TRC Recommendations; CRTC Ruling; Fire Smart of Commissioner's Land within municipal boundaries; shoreline erosion to include Fort Smith; NWTAC AGM locations to include Fort Smith; funding for Aurora College; fiscal year for tax based communities; and decentralization of government positions.

D. **ABSENCE OF COUNCIL MEMBERS**

17-089 Moved by: Cr. Kikoak
Seconded by: Cr. Dumont

That Cr. Patel be excused from the Special Meeting of Council on March 28, 2017.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

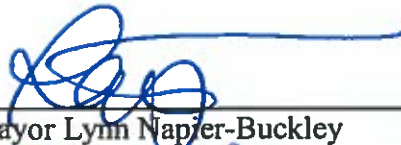
E. **ADJOURNMENT**

17-090 Moved by: Cr. Kikoak
Seconded by: Cr. Bell

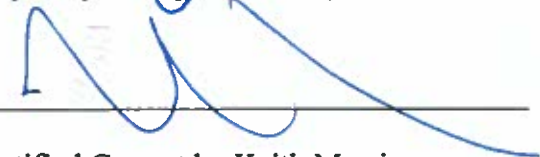
That this meeting be adjourned at 8:15 pm.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Minutes adopted this 18th day of April, 2017.



Mayor Lynn Napier-Buckley



Certified Correct by Keith Morrison
Senior Administrative Officer

F. **QUESTION PERIOD**