



**COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FORT SMITH
SPECIAL MEETING SP-03-17
THE THIRD SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL FOR
THE YEAR 2017**

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

REGRETS: Cr. A. Kikoak

STAFF: Keith Morrison, Senior Administrative Officer
 Katie Reid, Executive Secretary

Special Meeting SP-03-17 8:30 PM
April 4, 2017 Council Chambers

The purpose of the Special Meeting is to discuss NWT Association of Communities AGM Resolutions, and to review Development Permits DPA-007-17 and DPA-009-17.

A. CALL TO ORDER & CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

Mayor Napier-Buckley called the meeting to order at 8:33 pm and confirmed quorum of Council was present.

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

That the agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. DISCUSSION

i. NWT Association of Communities AGM Resolutions

Shoreline Erosion – Mayor Napier-Buckley presented the resolution on shoreline erosion. Cr. Patel was pleased with the resolution. Mayor Napier-Buckley advised that the resolution was modified from a resolution put forward in 2015 to include Fort Smith and specific issues pertaining to Fort Smith. In 2016, a MACA representative had advised that the resolution from 2015 with respect to shoreline erosion did not apply to Fort Smith. It was noted that most of the riverbank is Commissioner’s land. Also, the lagoon lines and water intake are both in the landslide zone off the riverbank. Mayor Napier-Buckley noted that the area is actively sliding.

Whereas some communities in the NWT, including Fort Smith, are facing riverbank and soil erosion issues;

Whereas communities are facing huge costs associated with addressing these issues posing significant risks to essential infrastructure, caused by erosion in various forms;

Whereas Fort Smith has faced significant costs, including loss of life, due to riverbank issues and that there continues to be ongoing riverbank issues that affect Town of Fort Smith infrastructure, including sewage lagoon lines;

Whereas the water intake for Fort Smith is directly downstream from active slide zones;

Therefore be it resolved that the GNWT make it their priority to find funding, in particular, with other stakeholders to remediate or mitigate these concerns in all communities facing riverbank and soil erosion issues;

Be it further resolved that Fort Smith and any other community which faces issues beyond that of flooding, also be included in the list of affected communities.

Aurora College Funding – Mayor Napier-Buckley presented the resolution. Cr. Tuckey advised that the government has targeted \$90 million for post-secondary aboriginal student funding in the NWT. Mayor Napier-Buckley added the information to the resolution.

Whereas the purpose of the Aurora College is to deliver adult and post-secondary education, including the delivery of university level programs and the granting of prescribed university degrees and applied bachelor degrees;

Whereas Aurora College continues to evolve as the needs of the NWT labour market change;

Whereas the population of the NWT is over 50% aboriginal and that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action highlighted the need for funding for aboriginal education;

Whereas the vision for Skills4Success is that NWT residents have the skills, knowledge and attitudes for employment success and the Skills4Success Actions Plan Skill Goal #1 is that development and post-secondary education programs are aligned with labour market demands;

Whereas the NWT Jobs in Demand 15-Year Forecast lists the need for various levels of employment and education backgrounds for the next 15 years;

Whereas the 2017 Federal Budget has targeted \$90 million in over two years for post-secondary program support for indigenous students to be shared across the territories.

Therefore be it resolved that the GNWT sufficiently fund Aurora College to target education needs based on labour market analysis, with increases to the budget to account for inflation and new technology;

Be it further resolved that any proposed significant budget changes to the college be made with the input of the Board of Governors who are representatives of regions throughout the north, and with municipal leaders, and indigenous government stakeholders.

Fire Smart Commissioner's Land – Mayor Napier-Buckley reviewed the resolution. Cr. Patel would like to strengthen the resolution by adding a timeline. Cr. McArthur agrees that the issue should be revisited yearly. Administration advised that the communities should have a Wildfire Protection Plan and a schedule to revisit properties although the municipalities have limited capacities to perform the abatement work. It was suggested to include Fort MacMurray and Slave Lake in the resolution and to note that the prevention costs are significantly less than the loss of infrastructure.

Whereas the GNWT hold untenured lands within municipal boundaries throughout the NWT;

Whereas all landholders are encouraged to fire smart their properties;

Whereas communities throughout the NWT face threat of loss due to the spread of forest fires within municipal boundaries;

Whereas the cost of preventative measures, specifically to fire smart properties, is significantly less than the cost of loss of infrastructure within a community, as seen in the communities Fort MacMurray and Slave Lake;

Therefore be it resolved that the GNWT fire smart untenured Commissioner's Lands within municipal boundaries for communities throughout the NWT.

TRC Recommendations – Mayor Napier-Buckley reviewed the resolution. Cr. Holtorf would like to include that the GNWT and municipalities recognize the work done through the Commission's Report and that the GNWT bring forward the responsibilities of the reconciliations. There were no other comments made on the resolution.

Whereas in 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada put forth 94 recommendations;

Whereas many of the recommendations were to be addressed by various levels of government; including Federal, Territorial, Provincial, and Municipal.

Whereas the population of the NWT is over 50% aboriginal and that many are survivors of residential school or related to residential school survivors;

Therefore be it resolved that the NWTAC recognize the importance of the recommendations and the work done by the TRC Commission and encourages the Territorial Government to bring forth what it sees as responsibilities from the 94 recommendations.

Be it further resolved that the GNWT put forth a timeline to implement the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation by the end of 2017.

Be it further resolved that the recommendations be implemented or started no later than 2019.

NWTAC AGM Location – Mayor Napier-Buckley reviewed the resolution. It was noted that only three communities have adequate accommodations to hold the AGM. Mayor Napier-Buckley noted that she was the only delegate in opposition of the resolution in 2016. She noted that the resolution has been modified to include Fort Smith. Cr. Patel asked if Fort Smith has enough accommodations. Mayor Napier-Buckley advised that the argument is that Fort Smith has the capacity to hold the AWGs. Additionally, the EDO will be developing a document that states capacity.

Whereas the Annual General Meeting of the NWT Association of Communities has been growing over the years;

Whereas there are only four communities in the NWT that have adequate accommodations to host the AGM – Inuvik, Yellowknife, Fort Smith, and Hay River;

Therefore be it resolved that until such time as other communities have enough accommodations to host the AGM, the AGM be held through a rotation of Fort Smith, Inuvik, Hay River and Yellowknife.

CRTC Ruling – Mayor Napier-Buckley reviewed the resolution. Mayor Napier-Buckley would like the NWTAC lobby the FCM to push to have broadband services and funding as a priority for the NWT.

Whereas the CRTC decision on basic telecommunications services will result in improved services throughout the territory; and

Whereas residents of the Northwest Territories have significant restrictions on internet usage and speeds;

Therefore be it resolved that the NWTAC lobby the FCM to advance the decision of the CRTC and the timeline for implementation in the territories.

Decentralization of Jobs and Services – D/M Smith reviewed the resolution.

Whereas 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.

Fiscal Year Change – Mayor Napier-Buckley reviewed the resolution. Mayor Napier-Buckley advised that the resolution had previously been put forward and reaffirmed. She noted the challenges in being a taxed based community with a fiscal year ending December 31st while the GNWT's fiscal year ends March 31st. She noted that the Town is required to have the budget approved by the end of December and does not receive GNWT funding until April. Additionally, newly elected Councillors are required to approved a budget with little knowledge on the budgeting process. D/M Smith felt that it is essential to represent the resolution with a timeline. Administration advised that the GNWT must revise the CTV Act and felt that they may not be able to meet a timeline and therefore overlook the resolution. He suggested not adding a timeline, and thus the resolution may have priority while reviewing the CTV Act. D/M Smith would like the resolution identified as a priority for the 18th Legislative Assembly.

Whereas the NWT Cities Towns and Villages Act requires the fiscal year to be the calendar year; and

Whereas the NWT Charter Communities Act and the Hamlets Act require a fiscal year ending March 31, except in the case of a Municipal Taxing Authority; and

Whereas all Communities rely on funding from other orders of government whose fiscal year ends on March 31; and

Whereas it may be in the better interest of each community in the NWT to select a fiscal year end which meets its need;

Therefore be it resolved that the NWTAC urges the GNWT to enact legislative changes that would give all municipalities the option of choosing a fiscal year that matches the calendar year or a fiscal year that ends on March 31; and

Be it further resolved that this legislative change be identified as a priority for the 18th Legislative Assembly.

D/M Smith asked if a motion is required to adopt the resolutions. Administration confirmed this. Cr. Holtorf would like the Fire Smart and Riverbank Erosion resolutions discussed with the MLA.

Mayor Napier-Buckley handed the Chair to D/M Smith.

17-091 Moved by: Mayor Napier-Buckley
Seconded by: Cr. Dumont

That the Town of Fort Smith put forward the resolutions listed in detail to the NWTAC for the Annual General Meeting:

Shoreline Erosion
Aurora College Funding
Fire Smart Commissioner's Land
TRC Recommendations
NWTAC AGM Locations
CRTC Ruling
Municipal Fiscal Year
Decentralization of Jobs and Services

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mayor Napier-Buckley took back the Chair.

ii. DPA-007-17 Andria Sawatzky

17-092 Moved by: Cr. Tuckey
Seconded by: Cr. Bell

That DPA-007-17, submitted by Andria Sawatzky, to operate a home occupation massage therapy business from Lot 280, Plan 207, 3 McDougal Road in Fort Smith be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

D/M Smith declared a conflict and left the meeting.

DPA-009-17 Kevin Smith

17-093 Moved by: Cr. McArthur
Seconded by: Cr. Dumont

That DPA-009-17, submitted by Kevin Smith, to operate a home occupation general consulting business from Lot 1593, Plan 2641, 5 SS Sparrow Drive in Fort Smith be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

D/M Smith returned to the meeting.

D. ABSENCE OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

17-094 Moved by: Cr. Tuckey
Seconded by: Cr. Bell

That Cr. Kikoak be excused from the Special Meeting of Council on April 4, 2017.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

E. ADJOURNMENT

17-095 Moved by: D/M Smith
Seconded by: Cr. Bell

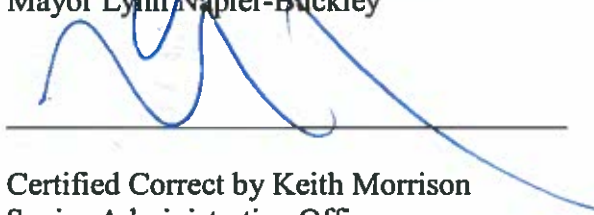
That this meeting be adjourned at 9:38 pm.

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**