
















Town of Fort Smith
Town Council Meeting
Agenda

September 17, 2019 7:00 p.m. – Council Chambers

A. Call to Order and Confirmation of Quorum	
B. Approval of Agenda	
C. Presentations a. RCMP Police Report August 2019	 RCMP Police Report August 2019
D. Approval of Council Minutes a. Council Minutes 08-19 b. Special Meeting Minutes SP-04-19	  Council Minutes Special Meeting August 20, 2019 Minutes August 30,
E. Business Arising from the Minutes	
F. Declaration of Financial Interest a. Statement of Disclosure of Interest	 Statement of Disclosure of Intere:
G. Council Business	
a. Introduction and Consideration of Committee Reports i. Corporate Services ii. Community Services iii. Municipal Services iv. Council Prioritites Update v. YSM Airport Safety Operation Concerns	   Corporate Services Community Services Municipal Services Minutes September Minutes September Minutes September  Council Priorities Update
b. Enactment of Bylaws and Policies i. Bylaw 998 Appoint Bylaw Officer Gavin Burke – Third Reading	 Bylaw 998 Appoint Bylaw Office Gavin t
c. Appointments	
d. Mayor and Council/Board Representative Updates	
e. Administration i. DPA-020-19 Marie MacDonald ii. DPA-021-19 Thomas Koidhis iii. DPA-022-19 Sophie Bourgon iv. Briefing Note – JBT Donation Request Updated	   DPA-020-19 Marie DPA-021-19 Thomas DPA-022-19 Sophie MacDonald Koidhis Bourgon  BN JBT Donation Request Updated
H. Proclamations	
I. Absence of Council Members	
J. Date of Next Council Meeting	
K. Adjournment	
L. Question Period	



Sgt. Gilbert provided an update of ongoing community projects. He advised that he didn't work with the Community on Patrol program in August as he was away but spoke to Erika Bell about meeting with Cr. Beaulieu and himself about implementing the program this fall. Sgt. Gilbert had received positive feedback about the Interagency Group and has reached out about meeting with groups in September. He would like to have the Interagency Group in place before his transfer. Sgt. Gilbert has also received positive feedback from the Town of Fort Smith, Salt River First Nation and the Metis Council on the Indigenous Culture Exchange Program but hasn't had anyone interested put their name forward and requested that anyone wanting to participate do so. Sgt. Gilbert noted that Cst. Hazlewood also attended the Sweetgrass trip last week.

Cr. McArthur asked if Cst. Hazlewood enjoyed the Sweetgrass trip. Sgt. Gilbert replied that he enjoyed the trip so much that he has expressed interest in attending again next year.

Cr. Cox requested an update on the proactive traffic enforcement initiative in conjunction with ENR, Parks Canada and Bylaw Enforcement. Sgt. Gilbert replied that the RCMP has partnered more recently with Bylaw Enforcement and that Parks Canada has performed four initiatives this year. He added that Parks Canada is making efforts to increase enforcement initiatives due to recent incidents that have occurred around Pine Lake and that Alberta has also been sending members to patrol on Pine Lake Road. He advised that the detachment hasn't performed any joint traffic initiatives with ENR but is hoping to this fall.

D/M Smith was disappointed to hear that Sgt. Gilbert would be transferring and was pleased with his monthly delegations. He advised that during a recent trip to Yellowknife he encountered two check stops by G-Division and noted that he has never experienced this in his entire twenty-years living in the NWT. He was pleased to see this and felt that it is a comprehensive and effective way to check for infractions. He asked if there were any plans to implement this in Fort Smith. Sgt. Gilbert replied that the detachment can plan to perform more check stops although they are generally performed during national enforcement weeks. He noted that Cst. Steve Beck has been helpful in assisting with additional stops when the detachment is short-staffed.

Cr. Westwell commended Sgt. Gilbert for his engagement with Council while in Fort Smith and noted that Council was able to address some issues brought forward by the RCMP during their meeting with Ministers Sebert and Schumann. He noted that they were not aware of some of the issues brought forward although some items were resolved such as securing the Department of Infrastructure Compound. Sgt. Gilbert felt progress can be made on certain initiatives through working together and that many times issues can be a result of improper communication.

Mayor Napier was also disappointed that Sgt. Gilbert would be transferring and noted that she was pleased with his level of engagement with Council.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Cr. Couvrette referred to the Council Minutes of August 20th where there was discussion about writing the GNWT regarding the chip-sealing of Highway 5 and the Fort Smith Airport Runway. He noticed that there was a post on Facebook encouraging residents to write the Town with their concerns of Highway 5. He didn't feel that contacting the Town would be an effective way to deal with the issue and suggested concerned residents contact the GNWT Minister of Infrastructure directly.



19-180 Moved by: Cr. Westwell
Seconded by: Cr. Couvrette

That the minutes of Regular Meeting 08-19 of August 20th, 2019 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Cr. Cox referred to the Special Minutes of August 30th and noted a correction on Page 3 where Minister Schumann stated that the ITI Superintendent position would continue in Fort Smith for the near term due to ongoing initiatives. She suggested this be corrected to Hay River.

D/M Smith commended the Executive Secretary for the excellent minutes. He advised that he was absent for the meeting but has a comprehensive understanding of the dialogue and that the minuted dialogue is good for public record when meeting with Ministers. D/M Smith understands Council's frustration with the meeting.

Cr. Couvrette referred to the discussion where it was indicated that according to the public service records it was stated that there has been no change to the number of positions in Fort Smith. He noted that it was identified by Cr. Westwell the amount of vacant positions at the Aurora College and suggested addressing the issue through a letter to the GNWT by asking how many vacant positions there are in Fort Smith and how long they have been vacant.

Cr. Couvrette noted that it was suggested that there may be disparity in ITI funding between the different communities in the South Slave and suggested additional information be requested through an ATIP request. He requested a breakdown on contributions and grants in the South Slave Region for all programs within the trade and investment branch and the tourism section of the department. He also requested information on parks as they receive contribution agreements for maintenance.

Cr. Couvrette noted that Minister Schumann referred to the GNWT being successful in obtaining \$1.2 billion in Federal infrastructure funding for the NWT. He added that the Minister discussed Fort Smith receiving a new Correctional Centre and Mine Training Facility although both had been planned for multiple years. He asked of the \$1.2 billion dollars obtained from the Federal Government, how much is being utilized in Fort Smith and suggested a letter be put forward to the Minister requesting further information.

Cr. Westwell thanked the Executive Secretary for the minutes and agreed that meeting was frustrating. He noted that he was frustrated with the response received from the Minister of Lands, prior to the Special Meeting, regarding how to obtain Commissioner's land that the Town had submitted applications for. Cr. Westwell noted that Mayor and Council had requested the number of vacant positions during one of the MLA's first meetings with Council in November 2018 and that the Mayor had received an update from the Premier's office in July. He also expressed his disappointment with conversations with the MLA following the Special Meeting and felt that he was more supportive of Hay River as it was stated that they have lost more GNWT positions. He added that Fort Smith has a comparable number of vacant positions. He wasn't surprised that the Executive Council did not have answers for Fort Smith but only the government's position and suggested that Fort Smith needs to find another approach. He added that many other NWT communities are feeling the same as Fort Smith, that they don't have a voice. He asked how Fort Smith can change their strategy. Cr. Westwell was appreciative of the meeting and noted that some issues were advanced as a result of RCMP dialogue.

Administration agreed with Cr. Westwell comments. He noted that there has been a lot of dialogue but that motions are required to provide direction.



Administration provided a long list of funding and program cuts that have affected the Town. He noted that the amount of changes is overwhelming and used the term death by a thousand cuts. He asked how the Town can functionally operate when funding and programs are continuously cut on multiple levels by multiple departments. He agreed with Cr. Westwell's comments that the Town needs to find a new approach and that writing multiple letters has been unsuccessful and devalues Council's voice at the territorial level.

He noted that regarding the Aurora College issues, there is a Post-Secondary Education Committee established that was planned to meet in September and suggested that the Chair of the Committee bring issues forward. He noted that there is also a Communications Committee established to get the newsletters out. He recommended that Council invite the new Premier of the Legislative Assembly to meet with Council to discuss ongoing issues, once appointed, as suggested by Minister Schumann during the August 30th Special Meeting. He also noted that there was direction to meet with the Minister of Lands regarding the Snowboard Park lots, which has occurred, and the Minister had suggested writing a letter requesting the Town's infrastructure be left on the lot until the land tenure is determined; that it would be considered. He asked if Council would like to make a motion to send a letter with the request as well.

19-181 Moved by: Cr. Cox Seconded by: Cr. Couvrette That the minutes of Special Meeting SP-04-19 of August 30 th , 2019 be adopted as presented. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
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E. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Cr. Cox referred to the Regular Council Minutes of August 20th where a motion was passed to issue an ATIP request to the Department of Infrastructure regarding the narrowing of the Fort Smith Airport runway and requested an update as to if the letter had been sent and acknowledged. Mayor Napier asked if Administration had an update on this. Administration understood that the Mayor would be issuing the request but would prepare this if requested.

Cr. Cox advised that there was an update received at the Regular Council meeting on the Slope Stabilization Project and asked if there was any further progress or if the project is still at the tabletop design stage. Administration confirmed that the project is still in the tabletop design stage and that the work is being reviewed and graded.

D/M Smith noted that Administration had suggested Council motion writing a letter to the Minister of Lands who is still the Minister until the new Cabinet is appointed to leave the washcar and changeroom facilities in place until determination is made on the sale of Lot 1688, Plan 4045.

19-182 Moved by: D/M Smith Seconded by: Cr. Cox That the Town of Fort Smith write a letter to the Minister of Lands to request approval to leave the Town's change-car and washroom facilities in place until determination is made on the sale of Lot 1688, Plan 4045 in Fort Smith. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
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Cr. Westwell asked if the letter to invite the GNWT Legislative Assembly Executive Council should be drafted now as the next Council Meeting of October 15th won't be until after the elections and that the Executive Council would be appointed late October 2019. Mayor Napier confirmed that the letter could be drafted prior to the election and advised that the NWTAC Executives would be meeting the new MLAs on October 17th. She believes the Executive Council would be decided by then and confirmed that it would be drafted before their appointments.



D/M Smith would like Mayor Napier to be present for the Swearing in Ceremony of the new Legislative Assembly in Yellowknife. He noted that this would provide opportunity to speak with newly elected members of the Executive Council and to voice the concerns of the Town.

Cr. Westwell would like to meet with the new Executive Council as soon as possible and hopes to have an improved relationship with the next government. He agrees with D/M Smith's comments to have the Mayor or Deputy Mayor meet with the new Executive Council during their Swearing in Ceremony and felt that it would be valuable to meet personally.

19-183 Moved by: Cr. Westwell
Seconded by: Cr. Couvrette

That the Town of Fort Smith write a letter to the Executive Council of the 19th Legislative Assembly requesting a meeting of the Executive Council with the Town of Fort Smith.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Cr. Couvrette stated that he had suggested sending additional letters in previous comments and still feels letter should be sent to garner attention. He suggested requesting more information regarding GNWT employment in Fort Smith; specifically, for a list of vacant government positions, how long they have been vacant for and the initiatives taken to fill the positions.

Cr. Westwell noted the Mayor and Council did ask this verbally during the Special Meeting of Council on August 30th but didn't receive the expected response. He advised that the UNW has been requesting accurate data as there are unfilled vacancies and new casual hiring rules and suggested including the Union of Northern Workers (UNW) with a copy of the correspondence. Cr. Couvrette was agreeable to the request.

19-184 Moved by: Cr. Couvrette
Seconded by: Cr. Westwell

That Mayor and Council send a letter to the Premier and Human Resources requesting a list of vacant positions by title, how long the positions have been vacant and the current staffing actions that have been undertaken.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

F. **DECLARATION OF FINANCIAL INTEREST**

There were no declarations of financial interest.

G. **COUNCIL BUSINESS**

a. Introduction and Consideration of Committee Reports

Corporate Services Standing Committee

19-185 Moved By: D/M Smith
Seconded By: Cr. Cox

That the Corporate Services Standing Committee minutes from September 3rd, 2019, be adopted as presented

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



Community Services Standing Committee

19-186 Moved By: Cr. Cox
Seconded By: Cr. Couvrette

That the Community Services Standing Committee minutes from September 10th, 2019, be adopted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

TTAB Appointment

19-187 Moved By: Cr. Couvrette
Seconded By: Cr. Cox

That Natalie Melnyk be appointed to the Tourism and Trade Advisory Board for a term ending December 31st, 2020.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Municipal Services Standing Committee – Cr. Westwell advised that the marked-up draft of the Council Priorities document as per Council’s workshop is included in the package. He noted that there were some new items added and indications of where additional actions are required. He indicated that it was noted that additional finesse is required that under the category “to be the healthiest community in the NWT” as some actions are being undertaken and that there are other actions being undertaken that could be included. He stated that it was noted to enhance marketing towards the student community under “build strong relationships with the Aurora College Student Community” but it wasn’t decided to be included as an action item or having the Communications Committee address. He stated that further follow up is required on the action item to fully adopt and implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as the framework of reconciliation. He advised that the City of Yellowknife is holding meetings to further the efforts of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. He noted under the category of “ensure residents, college students and visitors are well-informed” it was decided that it would be the Communications Committee focus to develop community communications guidelines and policies. He noted that there were a few additional action items included in the document and that ensuring a successful collective bargaining was added under “be the employer of choice in the NWT”.

Cr. Cox referred to the Municipal Services minutes where it was discussed that Minister Schumann had stated that all airport runways being worked on are to a new standard of 100 ft and that there was a tender out for overlay for the Hay River airport runway which is 150 ft. She noted that it was requested at the meeting that the Mayor follow up on this and asked if this was done. Mayor Napier does not have information on this but will follow up.

D/M Smith thanked Cr. Westwell for his work with the Council Priorities. Administration asked if a motion is required to update the Council Priorities or if they should be included in the Corporate Services package as updated going forward. Cr. Westwell would like to remove the notes from the document and continue to evolve the document moving forward without a motion. D/M Smith suggested further discussing whether a motion is required at the Corporate Services meeting on October 1st.

19-188 Moved By: Cr. Westwell
Seconded By: Cr. McArthur

That the Municipal Services Standing Committee minutes from September 10th, 2019 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



Chip Sealing of Highway 5 – D/M Smith recently drafted a letter but hasn't yet provided it to the Mayor for review. Cr. Westwell stated that this is an issue in other communities that have had recent chip-sealing and asked if media should be included in receiving a copy of the letter. He suggested that CBC, Cabin Radio and News North be included. He felt that there would be other communities also upset with the work. D/M Smith agreed to include the media in the correspondence and amended his motion. He noted that the condition of the highway is still an issue, although it is already chip-sealed, as it will continue to degrade and be a safety concern. He has heard comments that the highway has been dangerous to drive in raining conditions and has noticed that the highway retains water when raining, unlike municipal roads, which is a serious safety issue. Cr. Couvrette suggested photographing parts of the road that are of concern and including photos with the letter.

Administration suggested that considering the project was a multimillion-dollar expenditure, territorial level pressure would be required for the work to be corrected. He suggested contacting other governments who had received chip-sealing work in conjunction with the project and confirming that the product was of low quality before including them in the correspondence to ensure there is that level of support with the dissatisfactory work that was completed. He added that there are other mechanisms besides writing letters if substantive answers aren't being received by the GNWT and agreed that engaging the media in the process is a good approach. He also noted that other decisions are made that would have contributed to the sub-standard work on the highway such as lower-quality control and suggested that an ATIP request may flesh out this information and provide a reaction from those responsible for the work. He suggested if a letter is written, allies should be included to force an appropriate response.

Cr. Couvrette suggested that the overlay work for the narrowing of the Fort Smith airport could also potentially be added to this letter to state that the work performed has made the airport less safe. He noted that the GNWT has a responsibility to ensure that safety is considered in their projects and that they shouldn't be facilitating projects that create less than safe conditions than the original product.

D/M Smith advised that the letter he drafted speaks to concerns of safety, quality assurance, quality control and oversight of the project. He noted that he also taken pictures to include with the letter demonstrating the lack of quality control. He noted that during a rainfall there is water pooling and the unevenness of the road is clearly visible. He felt that the issue of the quality of the highways resonates with residents the way some other issues don't and felt that the issue is substantive enough to be brought forward as an election issue.

19-189 Moved By: D/M Smith
Seconded By: Cr. Cox

That the Mayor write a letter to the Department of Infrastructure for an immediate resolution to the substandard chip sealing of Highway 5; and

That NWT media receive the correspondence.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



YSM Airport Safety Operation Concerns – Administration advised that an email was sent from Cr. Couvrette requesting this be added as an agenda item regarding Cr. Couvrette's thoughts on addressing the airport as a safety concern. Cr. Couvrette asked if the Mayor and Council would like to write a letter to the Executive Council of the GNWT regarding the issue. He stated that the Department of Infrastructure has done a deliberate action to make access to our community less safe. He fully agrees that they say the runway meets the minimum necessary for an aircraft to land but has discovered after further research that a dash-8 commuter aircraft has a minimum landing requirement on runways with a width of 98 ft. He noted that all other planes are very close to their minimum landing requirements with a 100 ft wide runway and felt this isn't safe. He stated that it was unacceptable for the GNWT to narrow the runway to the recommended minimum and that there was no reason for them to reduce the runway width from 200 ft to 100 ft other than to be spiteful to Fort Smith. He advised that Inuvik, Yellowknife, Fort Simpson, Norman Wells are all 150 ft wide and also that the Hay River runway was recently given a 150 ft wide overlay. He asked why the Fort Smith runway was reduced to 100 ft rather than 150 ft and felt that this would have been less of an issue. He added that the GNWT has complained at the Federal level about NWT airports being of less than the national standard but has reduced the Fort Smith runway to this standard and felt that it is unacceptable. He suggested advising media that the GNWT has reduced the Fort Smith runway from being of a safe standard to the bare minimum standard. He suggested putting forward a motion to present the issue to the media.

Cr. Cox suggested that the Mayor issue a news release to be distributed to the media and thinks this would be a more appropriate course of action than writing a letter. She noted that the Minister of Infrastructure had met with Council and Council had communicated their concerns as much as they could have. She agreed that the next course of action should be to issue a news release stating the issues noted by Cr. Couvrette.

D/M Smith advised that he had spoken recently with News North and to the solution of issues although none of the solutions were recorded only the complaints. He agreed that a poor bureaucratic decision was made in efforts to cut costs and is seeing from the GNWT that they will cut funding, programs and services however is possible as long as they adhere to the minimums. He advised that NWAL is the largest employer in Fort Smith and that they are struggling trying to implement their aviation school. He felt that this is an exciting economic development initiative coming from the private sector and that they are not receiving much support from the Department of ECE in even certifying their curriculum although it has already been approved by Transport Canada. As a result, Student Financial Assistance was not providing financial support to students. He noted that they need safe infrastructure to operate on. D/M Smith found it interesting that the Minister of Infrastructure, who is also the Minister of ITI, advised that the department is spending millions of dollars in Hay River on projects including a fish plant and pellet plant but that economic development in Fort Smith is being overlooked. He felt that this is an important aspect to bring forward as Fort Smith was told there is no economic development activity in Fort Smith even though there is. He noted NWAL is trying to implement a program that meets pilot shortage needs across the north and Canada. He noted that they have been stone-walled by the government and unsupported at the infrastructure level and the program services and delivery level. D/M Smith advised that this is a big concern as it is indicative of the GNWT turning its back on a small community. He added that GNWT spent \$450,000 on a flawed review of the Aurora College with the only meaningful excerpt from the review being the policy statement to transition to a polytechnic university. He suggested bringing forward other issues in conjunction with the runway issue as it diminishes the Town's largest employer from meeting a labour need in the north that has been clearly identified and the government is not supporting. He noted that Hay River has received lots of funding on a Federal and Territorial level for private initiatives including the fish plant quotes which were received millions over budget and considering the Chairperson has stated that with the current fleet infrastructure on the Great Slave Lake they would not be able to utilize the plant efficiently due being unable to produce an adequate amount of fish. He asked what the government's policy is on data-based decision making and felt that the Fort Smith airport has fallen victim to this.



Cr. Westwell noted that it was unfortunate that D/M Smith had missed the Special Meeting with the Minister where this was discussed. He noted that it was stated by the Minister that the government is not in the business of being in business although they are building multiple businesses in Hay River and having a GNWT position as a private fish plant manager. He advised that it was brought up during the Special Meeting that NWAL is the largest employer in Fort Smith and working towards an economic development initiative although working with an airport reduction and numerous challenges, the Minister had replied that there would be no economic development challenges. Cr. Westwell felt that he could not know this, and also noted from the meeting that it was stated that Transport Canada would not fund airport runway overlays over 100 ft. He found it troubling that Inuvik and Hay River are not receiving the bare minimum of 100 ft wide runways and that the GNWT would not fund above Transport Canada's funding to provide a wider runway in Fort Smith. Cr. Westwell advised that he is supportive of the motion as he believes the narrowing to be a reduction of safety and that the negative impacts outweigh the cost savings.

Cr. McArthur asked how many millions the GNWT provided to failed businesses over the years due to mismanagement and felt that the department isn't being diligent in researching businesses. He agrees that writing letters to the GNWT is ineffective and agreed that issues should be pushed forward through news releases including letters to the editors of media sources. Cr. Westwell agreed and was disappointed that Fort Smith no longer has local media.

Administration advised that when choosing approaches and as there is no local media, issues are being brought to a territorial media level and should have a territorial impact. He noted that otherwise issues become only about Fort Smith and won't be responded to by other governments. He suggested when taking the media approach, to consider making the issue a territorial issue and in the case of the airport, to include the economic development aspect and what initiatives are being undertaken in other communities to make the issue territorial. He noted that they are actively funding initiatives in Hay River but are not supporting or funding economic development initiatives in other NWT communities.

Cr. Couvrette added that it was also stated in the Special Meeting by Minister Schumann that Fort Smith is most likely the first receiving the reduction and that other community's runway would be reduced to 100 ft width. He noted this is a concern also as most West Jet planes would not land on less than a 150 ft wide runway.

19-190 Moved By: Cr. Couvrette
Seconded By: Cr. Cox

That the Mayor's office contact NWT media to express the Town of Fort Smith's concern about the safety of the Fort Smith Airport Runway.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. Enactment of Bylaws and Policies

Bylaw 998 Appoint Bylaw Officer Gavin Burke – Third Reading

19-191 Moved By: Cr. McArthur
Seconded By: Cr. Couvrette

That Bylaw 998 Appoint Bylaw Officer Gavin Burke be given Third Reading by title only.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



c. Mayor and Council/Board Representative Updates

- i. Cr. Westwell – Cr. Westwell was excited to see that resident Kathy Lepine has received her Century 21 realtor’s license. He was pleased that Fort Smith now has a realtor and noted that she is partnered with Century 21 out of Yellowknife. He would like to recruit Ms. Lepine to work with the Sustainable Development Advisory Board. He sees this as a first step in keeping historical housing affordability and sales data as identified as a need by SDAB.

Cr. Westwell felt that there is a bigger holistic picture with the ongoing GNWT issues. He suggested encouraging residents to be directly engaged in writing letters with their frustration regarding ongoing issues for further support. He noted that Fort Smith is beholden to the government as a GNWT community. He noted that the community continues to face GNWT losses but hasn’t seen growth and felt that stability would need to be built through Fort Smith’s economy. He suggested looking beyond the government for solutions to diversify Fort Smith’s economy. He noted that the Town may have to continue to pick-up GNWT shortfalls on various levels to move past blockades that are stopping Fort Smith from advancing. He suggested that if Fort Smith is made attractive to businesses it would also attract government. He noted that Fort Smith is affordable and accessible, and asked how to make Fort Smith an attractive place to diversify economy. He suggested that a long-term vision should be developed as the GNWT is minimalizing and centralizing further.

- ii. Cr. Pischinger – Cr. Pischinger agreed with Cr. Westwell’s comments. She doesn’t think the Town should give up and should engage the community as a whole with the issues.

Cr. Pischinger requested updates on road paving and regarding the Water and Sewer Project, if McDougal Road would be worked on this year. She also stated that the road condition on Portage Avenue south of McDougal Road is in horrible condition and asked what would be done about this before winter.

- iii. Cr. Beaulieu – Cr. Beaulieu agreed with Cr. Westwell’s comments and asked how the community could be engaged for support. She has heard many negative comments from community members and advised that they are picking up pieces from the last Council. She advised that Mayor and Council are doing their best.

- iv. D/M Smith – D/M Smith congratulated Chief Poitras and the new SRFN Council. He also provided belated congratulations to Chief Gerry Cheezie and the new SLFN Council. He suggested that Mayor and Council invite both new Councils of SRFN and SLFN to meet with Mayor and Council for joint Council Meetings. He suggested having a meet and greet dinner to unify and work together on issues in a different way than in the past. He would also like to extend an invitation the Metis Council after their AGM.

D/M Smith advised that Ray Tourangeau had graded the Bell Rock Road with his tractor and noted that Mr. Tourangeau was disappointed with the lack of grader work at Bell Rock. He advised Mr. Tourangeau that he would bring the issue forth to Council. He added that there has been lots of rain this fall which has deteriorated the condition of the gravel road.



D/M Smith advised that there was a Cabin Radio news release today from the Deputy Minister of Lands using profanity to dismiss an incumbent MLA. He suggested that Council read the article in consideration of the problems with the GNWT as it speaks volumes as to who is control in Yellowknife. He noted that over the past few years the Town has lost the Aurora College Board of Governors and the Health and Social Services Board of Governors which has eliminated the opportunity for Council to discuss issues locally and why letters are being issued to the GNWT. He noted that with this, the Town has lost the ability of self-determination and solving the problems locally which was a political decision made by the previous sitting of government. He added that it was identified during the FCM AGM meetings that the issue is a national phenomenon which is the struggle between municipal governments, and provincial and territorial governments and the need for internal problem-solving. He noted that the decision to dissolve structures used to solve problems locally in the past was made at a political level.

D/M Smith advised that the Arctic and Northern Policy Framework was released last week and that the document is a Federal Government marching order which includes Taltson Dam and a Polytechnic University in the NWT. He noted that components of the university in Yellowknife see the document as a means to leverage Federal funding for investment in the knowledge economy in the north. He felt that Council needs to understand this in order to respond in a way to demonstrate a strong campus presence in Fort Smith.

D/M Smith would like to bring forward a request for questions for local MLA candidates and will distribute this by email.

- v. Cr. Cox – Cr. Cox congratulated Chief Poitras and the new SRFN Council. She felt that arranging a joint Council meeting between the new SRFN and SLFN Councils, and the new Metis Council when elected, is an excellent suggestion. Cr. Cox looks forward to working with Cr. Westwell on the Communications Committee. Cr. Cox was pleased with the Town partnering with the Aurora College barbeque and noted that there was a great turnout which surpassed expectations. She noted that the students were very appreciative and that it bodes well for the Town's upcoming Block Party welcome barbeque. She looks forward to hosting the Block Party event with the rest of Council on September 28th at the Recreation Centre. She felt that the event is a positive good-will gesture to welcome new college students to the community. Cr. Cox also noted that the Town's Long Service Awards are upcoming, and she wished the recipients congratulations in advance. Cr. Cox is looking forward to the October 1st Territorial Election and working with whoever is elected. She felt that this is a good opportunity to renew Council's relationship with the Thebacha MLA.
- vi. Cr. McArthur – Cr. McArthur will provide an update on the condition of chip-sealing after his upcoming school bus trip to Hay River. He noted that there has been a lot of water in the community and asked if there has been consideration as to where to place additional culverts and ditches.
- vii. Cr. Couvrette – Cr. Couvrette suggested that the Town newsletter be circulated electronically to other northern municipalities to provide updates on the Town's business and point of view. He noted that this since information doesn't usually get carried to the press or assimilated in other fashions.

Cr. Couvrette encouraged residents to vote at the upcoming elections. He extended congratulations to Chief Poitras and the newly elected SRFN Council. He advised that September 19th is Take Back the Night march and hoped that everyone in the community participates.



Cr. Couvrette noted that it was discussed that Hay River lost more GNWT positions and suggested contacting their Council to request further information on the positions that were lost and provide them support. Cr. Couvrette agreed with Cr. Westwell's comments that a good portion of Fort Smith employment is government based and that he has an issue with centralizing local positions to Yellowknife.

- viii. Cr. Campbell – Cr. Campbell requested an update on the Water and Sewer Project and the water main break that occurred last Friday. He asked if the Town is able to keep up with water deliveries with only one truck operational.

Administration answered questions from all Councillors. With respect to the roads, he advised that the pavers would be leaving on September 26th. Regarding the Water and Sewer Project, the contractors have been advised that the work for the rest of the season would include completing the stretch of Breynat Street that they are currently working on, and finishing work on Portage Avenue to McDougal Road if weather permits. He noted that Portage Avenue hasn't been resurfaced yet to allow for potential additional work to occur this season. He stated that at the end of season the roads would be brought to grade and topped with gravel. He added that prep work was performed to pave roads in town which was ruined by the rain and resulted in graders working overtime to re-prep for the work. He suggested that this may be why the grader had not made it to Bell Rock. He agreed that the rain deteriorates the gravel and that there has been more rain than usual this summer.

Administration noted that there were statements about focusing away from government, onto other economic developments and indicated that the Town's position is to support both. He noted that the Town would like to keep the government jobs in place and that consultation occur before dissolving positions. He also agreed in acknowledging that the Town can't be dependent on the government and needs to create other economies in town. Administratively, he advised that the Town is working to create other economies and suggested that lobbying the GNWT to keep government jobs in town is a political exercise. He advised that the Town has an Economic Development Officer with an Economic Development Plan which has been reviewed by Council. He noted that the plan is focused on tourism but also focuses on general economic development and population growth. He added that the Town is also actively working with TTAB to focus on trades and not only tourism.

Administration advised that SDAB has been working on a housing affordability document which is a cornerstone for economic development in the community. Administration would like to see the board complete the housing affordability strategy and focus on the development of industrial properties. He noted that larger scale economic development initiatives require institutional/industrial properties to operate from which are not currently available in town. He noted the need to determine how to accommodate larger scale businesses that want to establish themselves in Fort Smith.

Administration replied to Cr. Campbell's question about water truck operations. He noted that the Town always operates with one water truck and that there were no impacts to water delivery. He advised that there was a water break last Friday which impacted a majority of the community, but that resident water was reinstated by 1:00pm with the exception of the Health Centre. He advised that it took approximately twelve-hours to restore the water to the Health Centre and that the disruption was a result of construction work on Breynat Street.



Administration replied to comments about the Aurora College barbeque and advised that the Town is looking to implement a month of September festivities between the Town, Aurora College and NLMCC. He would like to work with partner organizations on events including the Block Party, Aurora College recognition events, the Aurora College Welcome Barbeque and the NLMCC Art in the Park weekend to create a consistent calendar of September events.

Administration replied to Cr. McArthur's comments regarding ditches of water and advised that the Town has a drainage plan which indicates all the problem drainage areas. Further, he advised that Town staff monitor for problem areas in the spring and make efforts to address highest priority issues with capital budget approved by Council.

Administration referred to a previous meeting where it was eluded to that written questions would be forwarded to potential candidates and asked if Council wished to make a motion or if verbal direction was sufficient. He advised that the Mayor was not at the meeting and that there was disagreement over the content of the questions that were forwarded during the all-candidates forum.

- ix. Mayor Napier – Mayor Napier advised that Take Back the Night march is at 5:15pm on September 19th at the Recreation Centre. She noted that Lunch with the Bunch is on at 12pm on September 20th and that all electoral candidates would be there to speak with Seniors about their issues. Also, on September 20th at 6:30pm is the Town's Long Service Awards and that the Town would be celebrating Ronnie Schaefer's retirement. She advised that the Block Party is scheduled for September 28th in partnership with the Aurora College and that Elections Day is October 1st. Mayor Napier advised that the Seniors Society's Lunch with the Bunch meets every third Friday of every month and has have meetings the first Tuesday of every month.



Mayor Napier thanked Cr. Westwell for streaming the all-candidate's debate and that she watched the debate remotely while she was in Kitchener-Waterloo for Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) meetings and provided an update. She advised that the writ was dropped for the Federal Elections, FCM released their election platform for candidates and that Arctic and Northern Policy Framework was released and briefly discussed. She advised that she would be attending Advocacy Days FCM meetings in November. Mayor Napier noted that at the meetings the FCM election platform for Federal candidates was released and there is a website that speaks to the issues of the FCM. She advised that the FCM represents communities across Canada and issues are nationwide including access to broadband, the push to have Gas Tax permanently doubled, affordable and accessible housing, vibrant and rural communities, public transit and addressing climate change. She stated that the FCM has media templates and suggested the Town have this as well. She noted earlier discussion about having citizens engage directly with the GNWT on issues and suggested having template letters available for residents to make getting their message out easier. Mayor Napier thinks Council should voice their concerns during NWTAC and FCM meetings and submit resolutions. Mayor Napier advised that the FCM used to communicate after things had been done and are now pushing to be involved in policy development before decisions are made. She suggested the Town take guidance from their process. Mayor Napier stated that municipalities are now pushing to be seen and are sitting at the table with the Federal Government as a respected level of government and with this, decisions are being made at a territorial or provincial level but by municipalities for what municipalities need. Mayor Napier suggested following the FCM election platform for MLA candidates. She would also like to discuss several municipal issues and how the candidates can support them. Mayor Napier would like to review resolutions previously put forward and review the policies that were released as a result. She suggested using the resolutions and policies put forward to the FCM and use them to forward them as issues for Fort Smith but also to get support from communities across the NWT and Canada.

Mayor Napier advised that the NWTAC Executive including herself would be travelling to Yellowknife on October 17th to meet with new MLAs and cabinet and will be having a board meeting on October 18th. She suggested discussing pressing issues to bring forward to the NWTAC board meeting and issues that Fort Smith can get support with from other municipalities across the NWT. She noted that a benefit being from the NWT is the opportunity to meet with the NWT Member of Parliament often. She acknowledged that other representatives that will be attending the FCM Advocacy Days are going to meet their MPs. Mayor Napier would like the Town's electoral platform out before the elections to get messages out and answers from the candidates to forward to the community so residents can make informed decisions on who they are supporting. Mayor Napier suggested ongoing meetings with the Ministers in Yellowknife and that this included in upcoming budget discussions.

Mayor Napier congratulated the new Chief and Councils of SRFN and SLFN. She advised that the Fort Smith Metis Council would be having their elections on October 19th. She felt that this is a great opportunity for the municipality to meet with Indigenous governments and work together to advocate at Territorial and Federal levels.



d. Administration

DPA-020-19 Marie MacDonald – The briefing note was reviewed.

19-192 Moved By: D/M Smith
Seconded By: Cr. Cox

That DPA-020-19 submitted by Marie MacDonald to operate a music production consulting home occupation business from Lot 1284, Plan 1679, 13 Bell Rock Way in Fort Smith be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DPA-021-19 Thomas Koidhis – The briefing note was reviewed.

19-193 Moved By: Cr. Couvrette
Seconded By: Cr. Cox

That DPA-021-19 submitted by Thomas Koidhis to operate a home occupation photography business from Lot 1346, Plan 1788, 20 Caribou Crescent in Fort Smith be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DPA-022-19 Sophie Bourgon – The briefing note was reviewed.

19-194 Moved By: Cr. Couvrette
Seconded By: Cr. Cox

That DPA-022-19 submitted by Sophie Bourgon to operate a home occupation nail salon business from Lot 1387, Plan 1760, 451 Calder Avenue in Fort Smith be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Briefing Note Updated JBT Donation Request – The briefing note was reviewed. Administration advised that the JBT donation request briefing note was brought to the Committee meeting last week and more information was requested. The updated briefing note is before Council which includes financial information. He noted that it was determined that the GNWT doesn't pay for playgrounds and the kids paid for them through fundraising initiatives in conjunction some additional funding from the school slush-fund. He stated that the slush-fund is depleted, and the install was covered in-part by the Department of Infrastructure. He advised that there was a misunderstanding of the scope of work which required the school covering a portion of the install leaving no funding left for their commitment to the payment of the installer.

D/M Smith advised that this was discussed at length previously and that he is supportive if upon further information it was determined that there had been a substantial fundraising effort and no more funding available within the School or DEA. He noted that it was unfortunate that project management was unable to anticipate the related costs and installation fees they incurred.

Cr. Westwell thanked for the additional information. He was disappointed that the GNWT doesn't build their playgrounds which resorted in seeking a donation from the municipality to build them. He advised that he is supportive of the request as the playground is a community asset and will be well used. He suggested stating in the motion where the money will be funded from in the budget.

Cr. Couvrette advised that the briefing note indicated a surplus of funds from the Town's portion of playground installations and suggested utilizing the surplus funding to cover the request from JBT. He suggested that the contribution be included in a press release also stating that the GNWT would not fund the playground which is vital to the delivery of programs in schools and that the Town stepped up to make the contribution.



Administration advised that there are unspent capital funds for playground installation and will include JBT's portion in the Town's payment to the playground installer. He advised that if the money is being donated it would come from the donations budget or with direction it would come from the capital budget. D/M Smith felt that the contribution is a donation and should come from the donations budget. He suggested leaving the capital money in place as any surplus will be used for reserves and for other projects. Cr. Westwell agreed to have the money funded from the donation's budget.

19-195 Moved By: D/M Smith
Seconded By: Cr. Campbell

That the Town of Fort Smith donate \$1,924 to JBT Elementary School to cover the unbudgeted costs of installing their playground equipment.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

H. ABSENCE OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Cr. Westwell noted that Cr. Beaulieu was late to the meeting and entered after the meeting had concluded. He asked for an update or if anyone was informed. Cr. Beaulieu was in a staff meeting and didn't plan for it to go that long. Mayor Napier reminded Council there are specific reasons for excused absences outlined in the Council Procedures Bylaw and requested that Councillors provide a general reason when notifying to be excused.

19-196 Moved By: Cr. Cox
Seconded By: Cr. McArthur

That Cr. Beaulieu be excused from the Corporate Services Standing Committee Meeting on September 3rd, 2019.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

19-197 Moved By: D/M Smith
Seconded By: Cr. Pischinger

That Mayor Napier be excused from the Community and Municipal Services Standing Committee Meetings on September 10th, 2019.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

I. DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Corporate Services Standing Committee Meeting – October 1st, 2019
Community and Municipal Services Standing Committee Meetings – October 8th, 2019
Council Meeting 10-19 – October 15th, 2019




J. **ADJOURNMENT**

19-198 Moved By: Cr. Cox
Seconded By: Cr. Couvrette

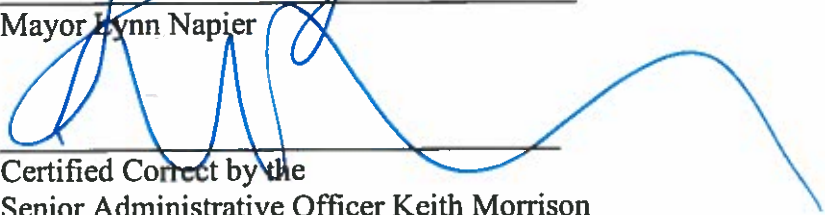
That the meeting be adjourned at 9:47 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Minutes adopted this 15th day of October, 2019.



Mayor Lynn Napier



Certified Correct by the
Senior Administrative Officer Keith Morrison

K. **QUESTION PERIOD**

A question period was offered in accordance with policy.