



**COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FORT SMITH
MEETING 12-16
THE FIRST REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL FOR
THE MONTH OF DECEMBER AND THE
TWELFTH FOR THE YEAR 2016**

PRESENT: Mayor L. Napier-Buckley D/M K. Smith
Cr. R. Patel Cr. A. Kikoak
Cr. A. Dumont Cr. B. Tuckey
Cr. R. Holtorf (Conference Call)

REGRETS: Cr. E. Bell Cr. B. McArthur

STAFF: K. Morrison, Senior Administrative Officer
K. Reid, Executive Secretary

GALLERY: Sergeant Snodgrass, Patti Haaima, Brad Brake

Meeting 12-16
December 20, 2016

7:00 PM
Council Chambers

A. CALL TO ORDER & CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

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

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

16-252 Moved by: Cr. Dumont
Seconded by: Cr. Tuckey

That the agenda be adopted as amended to include an RCMP delegation.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

RCMP Delegation – Sergeant Snodgrass advised that he would like to start reporting to Council every month during Regular Meetings. He brought the November, 2016, Police Report for Council’s review. He was pleased to advise that the total number of calls has decreased to 1,335 from 2,101 in 2015. Additionally, he advised that the number of prisoners has also reduced to 296 from 453 in 2015. Cr. Dumont noted that there have been multiple break-ins recently. Sergeant Snodgrass advised that most of the vehicles are being left open or with the keys left inside and valuables left in sight. He noted that the Youth Criminal Justice Act limits what the RCMP can do with youth. He noted that there are currently a few youth on charges with conditions. Administration advised that the previous Sergeant spent a lot of time with a short list of chronic offenders. He asked if the reduction in calls was due to the list being shortened by offenders being incarcerated. Sergeant Snodgrass confirmed that the RCMP deal with about 10% of the population 90% of the time, and noted that a few of the chronic offenders were incarcerated in Yellowknife. Cr. Kikoak asked if they are fingerprinted. Sergeant Snodgrass advised that anyone that is charged, gets fingerprinted. Cr. Kikoak felt that are communication issues when after hour calls are redirected to Yellowknife. Sergeant Snodgrass advised that the receptionist only works until 5:00 pm and that afterhours call are redirected to the OCC. Administration advised that the previous Mayor and Council shared this dialogue and felt that Yellowknife can’t always relay information as they do not know the community. Sergeant Snodgrass advised that they are working on their geographical terms to be more responsive and suggested that they be requested to come on ride alongs to become more familiar with the community. Mayor Napier-Buckley noted that the RCMP are doing a campaign in December to watch for impaired drivers. Sergeant Snodgrass advised that the RCMP has partnered with the Bylaw Officer to do a check stop on December 16th.



Additionally, he noted that the RCMP suspected there would be more cases of impaired driving with the bar opening; however there turned out to be a lot of designated drivers. Mayor Napier-Buckley thanked the Sergeant and the RCMP members for their work. Mayor and Council wished Sergeant Snodgrass a Happy Holidays.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

16-253 Moved by: D/M Smith
 Seconded by: Cr. Tuckey

That the minutes of Regular Meeting 11-16 of November 15, 2016 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

E. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Cr. Kikoak asked if there was an update on hiring local to compile Strategic Planning information. Administration advised that the survey information will be handled in-house. He noted that once the survey results are compiled the Consultant will be engaged and the next steps will be planned. He noted a hired person would be best to liaison with stakeholder groups.

Cr. Kikoak noted that the corner of Calder Avenue by St. Mary's Street is very dark and requested the trail be plowed for pedestrian use. Administration advised that gravel will be displaced and add to costs when paving. He also noted that plowing would not detour snowmobiles although will follow up with Public Works to see what can be done.

F. DECLARATION OF FINANCIAL INTEREST

Cr. Kikoak declared a financial interest with respect to the Accounts Paid Part I & II.

G. COUNCIL BUSINESS

**a. Introduction and Consideration of Committee Reports
 Corporate Services Standing Committee**

16-254 Moved By: D/M Smith
 Seconded By: Cr. Tuckey

That the attached Corporate Services Standing Committee minutes from December 6, 2016, be adopted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Accounts Paid List Part I – It was noted that there was a payment made to Lou's Small Engines for propane and asked if propane for the arena canteen is still donated. Administration confirmed this and advised that propane is also used for the Zamboni.

16-255 Moved By: Cr. Tuckey
 Seconded By: Cr. Holtorf

That the Accounts Paid List Part I for the period ending November 30, 2016, totaling \$1,941,050.60 be approved.

IN FAVOUR – CR. TUCKEY, D/M SMITH, CR. PATEL, CR. DUMONT,
 ABSTAINED – CR. KIKOAK, CR. HOLTORF
 CARRIED



Accounts Paid List Part II – Mayor Napier-Buckley noted that one of the cheque numbers is incorrect.

16-256 Moved By: Cr. Patel
Seconded By: Cr. Dumont

That the Accounts Paid List Part II for the period ending November 30, 2016, totaling \$4,673.03 be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Appointment of Auditor

16-257 Moved By: Cr. Dumont
Seconded By: Cr. Patel

That Avery, Cooper & Co. Ltd. be appointed as the auditors for the Town of Fort Smith to conduct the audits of the 2016, 2017, and 2018 fiscal years.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DPA-045-16 Shane Daniels

16-258 Moved By: Cr. Tuckey
Seconded By: Cr. Patel

That DPA-045-16 submitted by Shane Daniels to operate a home occupation sound equipment rental business from Lot 1631, Plan 2895, 6 Wabisca Court in Fort Smith be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Staff and Volunteer Christmas Gifts – Mayor Napier-Buckley advised that volunteers make up 2/3's of the list for turkeys. She noted that volunteer appreciation is important and that the Animal Shelter has never been recognized before this year. She noted that the Fire Department and Ambulance Volunteers are also very important volunteers and crucial to the safety of the community. Mayor Napier-Buckley requested that the funds be taken from the Public Relations budget. Cr. Patel would rather pay out of pocket for the turkeys. She noted that after talking with Dixie Penner, who advised that the Animal Society would rather receive a cheque for the Shelter than being invited to events. She noted that the Animal Shelter Volunteers are picking of the slack of the Town by doing maintenance work. She noted that the volunteers are there for the animals and not to do maintenance work. Cr. Kikoak suggested that as this is the first year the Animal Society Volunteers are being recognized that they be asked if they prefer building maintenance or set a meeting to discuss these things. Cr. Tuckey would be willing to contribute to the purchase of turkeys in 2017 by donating \$30 per month from her honourarium. Cr. Holtorf felt that this should be incorporated into a policy to support volunteerism and show appreciation. He doesn't approve giving turkeys to staff but does approve giving turkeys to volunteers. Cr. Dumont has mixed feelings although felt that the Public Relations budget was established to do nice gestures like this. He felt that it would be discriminating to only recognize the volunteers and not staff. Cr. Tuckey noted that the debate over turkeys is new but the tradition has been ongoing for years. She noted that the small gesture is huge to some as Christmas can be a difficult time. Cr. Patel felt that this is a bad use of Public Relations funds. Administration advised that the turkeys were purchased from Town funds from a previous Mayor and that Council was never informed of the decision. D/M Smith noted that Former Mayor Hobart had purchased gift baskets and ornaments for staff. He noted that the ornaments were not well received. Administration noted that the previous Mayor had split costs with former SAO. Cr. Tuckey noted that it is important to recognize Town Staff and that she would also be willing to pay as a Councillor. Mayor Napier-Buckley noted that a motion of Council is required as the Public Relations budget is overspent.



16-259 Moved By: Cr. Tuckey
Seconded By: Cr. Kikoak

That Council buy turkeys for the Town Staff, and Fire, Ambulance, and Animal Shelter Volunteers from the Public Relations Budget.

IN FAVOUR – CR. TUCKEY, CR. DUMONT, D/M SMITH
OPPOSED – CR. HOLTORF, CR. PATEL, CR. KIKOAK
TIE BREAK – MAYOR NAPIER-BUCKLEY IN FAVOUR
CARRIED

Community Services Standing Committee

16-260 Moved By: Cr. Tuckey
Seconded By: Cr. Patel

That the attached Community Services Standing Committee minutes from December 13, 2016, be adopted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Women's Hockey Donation Request

16-261 Moved By: D/M Smith
Seconded By: Cr. Tuckey

That Council donates \$200 to the Fort Smith Fury Women's Hockey Team to purchase healthy snacks and beverages for their tournament in January, 2017.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Christmas Food and Toy Drive Donation Request – Cr. Holtorf does not support donating to religious organizations as per policy. Cr. Dumont noted that the religious organization is not accepting the donations as they are distributed to the community in hampers of food and toys.

16-262 Moved By: Cr. Kikoak
Seconded By: Cr. Dumont

That the Town of Fort Smith purchase \$400 in food and toys to donate to the Christmas Food and Toy Drive.

IN FAVOUR – CR. TUCKEY, CR. KIKOAK, D/M SMITH, CR. DUMONT
OPPOSED – CR. HOLTORF, CR. PATEL
CARRIED

Senior's Society Donation Request

16-263 Moved By: D/M Smith
Seconded By: Cr. Kikoak

That Council approves the Seniors Society's request to assist with their annual Christmas Dinner with an in-kind contribution of \$400.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Municipal Services Standing Committee – Cr. Kikoak asked if the Mayor had discussed fire abatement concerns with the MLA. Mayor Napier-Buckley advised that she will discuss fire abatement with the MLA. Administration had contacted the Lands Administrator at SLFN in regards to the planned fire break and advised that the meeting between SLFN and the AB Government did not occur. He noted that the contractor has already begun flagging areas for fire break. Additionally, Administration advised that MACA has contacted Administration in regards to expanding fire abatement work in town on Commissioner's land. He felt that fire abating Commissioner's Land is a GNWT initiative and that the Town lacks the funds, knowledge and capacity to do this work.



16-264 Moved By: Cr. Patel
Seconded By: Cr. Tuckey

That the attached Municipal Services Standing Committee minutes from December 13, 2016, be adopted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. Enactment of Bylaws: None at this time.

c. Appointments:

Appointment of Acting SAO

16-265 Moved By: Cr. Kikoak
Seconded By: Cr. Dumont

That Jim Hood, Director of Corporate Services, be appointed Acting SAO for the period of December 19, 2016 to January 2, 2017.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

d. Mayor and Council

- i. Cr. Tuckey – Cr. Tuckey was pleased to see the Santa Float out nightly and noted that the float is the legacy of a past Councillor, Duncan MacPherson. She wished a happy holiday to Council, staff and the community. Cr. Tuckey is looking forward to the progress of the Strategic Plan and, the usage of the Snowboard Park.
- ii. Cr. Holtorf – Cr. Holtorf appreciated being able to continue on Council while being away on medical leave. Cr. Holtorf looks forward to the progress of the Strategic Plan. He asked how the Prevention Supervisor position will enhance prevention in the community. He felt that there could be further enforcement of the Unsightly Lands Bylaw. Cr. Holtorf wished everyone a happy holiday.
- iii. D/M Smith – D/M Smith noted that there was good discussion at the climate change meetings. He noted that the second day of the meetings was like an energy charrette. He is looking forward to Fort Smith facilities going green by switching to electric heat. D/M Smith congratulated Sarah Daitch for being elected to the NWT Sports Hall of Fame. Additionally, he was pleased to hear Jeff Schwartzberger of the Snowboard Society talk about the Snowboard Park on the radio. D/M Smith commended Northwestern Air Lease for their role in tourism and making Fort Smith a tourist destination. D/M Smith thanked the MLA for the correspondence on Junior Kindergarten. D/M Smith noted that Fort Smith is a great place to be during Christmas.
- iv. Cr. Patel – Cr. Patel wished everyone a Merry Christmas. She noted that there will be church events happening throughout the holidays.
- v. Cr. Dumont – Cr. Dumont noted that Christmas is a time to reflect and appreciate excellent work done by staff and volunteers. He noted that snow removal in Fort Smith is second to none. He was pleased with the level of service that Fort Smith receives. Cr. Dumont wished the Mayor and Council, staff and the community a Merry Christmas.



- vi. Cr. Kikoak – Cr. Kikoak hopes that there will be further fire abatement work in 2017 and suggested that Council lobby the GNWT to be a responsible land owner in Fort Smith by fire abating Commissioner's land and land on the Alberta border. Additionally, Cr. Kikoak would like TTAB to focus more on trade, rather than tourism. She suggested they be tasked with looking for creative options for revenue generation beyond levies, fees and taxes. Cr. Kikoak has enjoyed working with Mayor and Council over the past year and wished them a happy holiday season.
- vii. Mayor Napier-Buckley – Mayor Napier-Buckley is looking for volunteers from Council to judge the annual Christmas Lights Contest. Mayor Napier-Buckley thanked Council and staff for their work over the past year. Mayor Napier-Buckley felt that the Town is very lucky to have so many dedicated, hardworking employees. Additionally, she is looking forward to progressing with the Strategic Plan and engaging the community. She noted that D/M Smith has taken the lead on producing the first newsletter which will be going out in the new year. Mayor Napier-Buckley was pleased with the Town's partnership with the RCMP and was happy to see that the number of calls and prisoners has reduced in 2016. She noted that Sgt. Snodgrass has advised members to be more engaged and make a presence in the community. Mayor Napier-Buckley has sent out correspondence, as per the Council motion, to the Premier, Ministers and MLA in regards to Junior Kindergarten and advised that she would forward the letter to Council upon request. Additionally, she has met with the Mayor Brad Mapes and the SAO of Hay River in regards to the AWGs and moving forward with community partnerships. She was pleased to see Kaesers selling snowboarding equipment. She noted that the RCC is also looking at getting equipment to rent. Mayor Napier-Buckley was pleased to finish budget discussions and continue with the holiday season. She noted that the last Chamber of Commerce Shop Local Draw would be on December 23rd at the RCC.

e. Administration

Briefing Note 2017 Draft O&M Budget – Cr. Patel noted that she somewhat supports the budget. Cr. Holtorf and she felt that a Finance Committee should be in place. Cr. Patel would like to have a Finance Committee in place for the next budget. Cr. Kikoak would like consideration taken when administering taxes to residents with home occupation businesses. She noted that the commercial properties are taxed more. Administration advised that by approving the O&M Budget, Council is approving the amount of revenue generation. He noted that the Mill Rate Bylaw will adjust how tax revenue is generated through zoning and that there may be opportunity for adjustments when preparing the bylaw. Cr. Tuckey noted Council's responsibility to replenish reserves as they are depleted. She noted that the Town has millions of dollars in infrastructure that will eventually need to be replaced. She is supportive of the 3.28% tax revenue increase to contribute to reserves. Cr. Dumont agrees with Cr. Tuckey. He reflected to the arena fire and water and sewer issues that occurred abruptly and that costs that were incurred could not have been covered without the help of reserves. Cr. Patel noted that the GNWT bails out losers rather than rewarding responsible communities. She requested this be discussed at the next NWTAC AGM. Cr. Kikoak asked if surpluses in the budget go to reserve. Administration advised that the budget must be balanced at zero although any surplus' at the end of the year goes into the general bank account, followed by reserves. Cr. Kikoak agrees with a tax revenue increase and would also like an increase in levies. D/M Smith noted that the Town has a revenue problem with a \$9.2 million operating budget while only generating \$3 million from property tax revenue and the rest from institutional government. Cr. Tuckey would like a press release distributed about the budget. Mayor Napier-Buckley advised that communications would be released with the newsletter. Cr. Holtorf asked what the funding shortfall is from the GNWT. Administration advised that



the Town is underfunded \$3.5 million per year which has impacted savings. He noted that increases in funding for 2017 are not significant. Cr. Holtorf would like this included in the press release.

16-266 Moved By: D/M Smith
Seconded By: Cr. Tuckey

That the 2017 O&M Budget be adopted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

H. **ABSENCE OF COUNCIL MEMBERS**

16-267 Moved By: Cr. Patel
Seconded By: Cr. Tuckey

That Cr. Dumont and Cr. McArthur be excused from the Community Services and Municipal Services Standing Committee Meetings on December 13, 2016.

IN FAVOUR – CR. TUCKEY, CR. HOLTORF, D/M SMITH, CR. PATEL, CR. KIKOAK
ABSTAINED – CR. DUMONT
CARRIED

16-268 Moved By: Cr. Dumont
Seconded By: Cr. Tuckey

That Cr. McArthur and Cr. Bell be excused from the Regular Meeting of Council on December 20, 2016.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

I. **DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING**

Corporate Services Standing Committee Meeting – January 3, 2017
Community and Municipal Services Standing Committee Meetings – January 10, 2017
Council Meeting 01-17 – January 17, 2017

J. **ADJOURNMENT**

16-269 Moved By: Cr. Tuckey
Seconded By: Cr. Patel

That the meeting be adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Minutes adopted this 17th day of January, 2017.



Mayor Lynn Napier-Buckley



Certified Correct by the
Senior Administrative Officer Keith Morrison



K. QUESTION PERIOD

A question period was offered in accordance with policy.

Brad Brake advised that when he was Mayor, the SAO and he paid approximately \$800-\$1000 for turkeys for 75 employees. He was not pleased with the turkeys being paid from Public Relations.

Mr. Brake asked what the current reserve contributions are. Administration advised that the information would be brought forward to Corporate Services. He estimated \$3 million.