

MINUTES

OCTOBER 26, 2021

GRAND FALLS

MEETING

A special meeting of Grand Falls Town Council in New Brunswick was held at the Municipal Building in the Roland Lafrance Room beginning at 7p.m. on Tuesday, October 26, 2021, following the notices required by law. This meeting is broadcast live on the municipal Facebook page.

ATTENDANCE

His Worship the Mayor:

Marcel Deschênes

Councillors:

Renaud Ouellette

Annie Deschênes

David Raines

Jean Réal Michaud

Jocelyn "Joe" Themens

As well as the CAO/Clerk Peter Michaud and Deputy Clerk Lise J. Ouellette.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Deschênes welcomes everyone.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The Deputy Mayor reports a conflict with the White Moose and Mini Moose bids.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

**Joe Themens/David Raines,**

**2021-063 That the agenda be accepted as presented. Carried**

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

**Renaud Ouellette /Annie Deschênes,**

**2021-064 That the minutes of the September 14, 2021, regular meeting, and the minutes of the September 8, 2021, special meeting, copies of which have been distributed to the members of Council, be adopted as received. Carried**

DRINKING WATER

The analysis of drinking water received since the last meeting, show potable water results.

**Renaud Ouellette/Jean Réal Michaud,**

**2021-065 that drinking water tests be received and filed. Carried**

## MOTIONS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

### SPECIAL EVENTS

Councillor Raines informs the public of the pumpkin decorating contest that will take place on Saturday, organized by the Town in collaboration with the CRNANO and the Chamber of Commerce.

### RECREATION, TOURISM AND CULTURE

Gérald Thériault was inducted into the Grand Falls Sports Hall of Fame during an extraordinary evening with over 100 guests attending.

Organizers plan to broadcast the evening on Facebook as well as attendance in person next year. Councillor Themens informs that the deadline for 2022 nominations is February 25th.

Councillor Themens informs people of the many positive comments received from visitors to our area regarding the campsite, the tourist center and others. The Department is studying the possibility of hiring part-time people in 2022 so that the campsite and tourist centers can remain open longer.

A new committee has been formed for the beautification of the bike path. The group begins its project within the boundaries of Grand Falls and will continue in the surrounding area in future years.

The first meeting of the ad-hoc committee for the marina took place. A second meeting is scheduled for November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The skateboard park is closed while landscaping is being done. Council asks everyone to respect the signs.

### Canteen and bar – golf club

\*\* Deputy Mayor Ouellette declares conflict and leaves the meeting. \*\*

### **Joe Themens/Jean Réal Michaud,**

**2021-066 That the quote received from White Moose and Mini Moose in the amount of \$950 per month plus tax for the first year and \$1,045 per month plus tax for the second year be accepted. Carried**

No further submissions were received.

### Canteen at the CEPSC

\*\*Deputy Mayor Ouellette declares conflict and leaves the meeting. \*\*

### **Joe Themens/David Raines,**

**2021-067 That the submission received from White Moose and Mini Moose in the amount of \$450 per month plus tax for the 2021-2022 season and \$495 per month plus tax for the 2022-2023 season be accepted. Carried**

No further submissions were received.

### LIBRARY

Despite the pandemic, 3,500 books were borrowed from the library during the year.

## POLICE

The public is asked to notify the police force if they have any information about ATVs using non designated streets.

The police force reminds motorists and young people to be careful during Halloween.

Young people in the region are encouraged to become police officers. Contact the Chief or Deputy Chief for more information on the process. The Deputy Mayor asks if it is possible to patrol with a police officer to see what the job is. He is advised that it is, with the authorization of the chief or the deputy.

## CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Deputy Mayor explains the Gift Card Program sponsored by McCain. It is hoped that this program will encourage local merchants.

People are encouraged to register on the Atlantic Impressions website, a survey to revive the economy in the Atlantic region.

A conference by Yves Gagnon will be offered by the Chamber of Commerce on November 4.

## CENTRAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

The financial statements were presented at the last meeting and show a slight surplus. The renovation incentive will continue in 2022.

## 2022 Budget

**Renaud Ouellette/Annie Deschênes,**

- 2021-068 That the Grand Falls Town Council authorizes the Clerk to publish the budget of the Grand Falls Central Business Development Corporation Inc., its intention to approve the budget, the importance of the extraordinary contribution required for the implementation of the budget, its intention to proclaim a by-law for the imposition of an extraordinary contribution for business improvement, and for the delivery of this product to the Board of Directors of the Grand Falls Central Business Development Corporation Inc. as well as the deadline for opposing the budget. Carried**

## MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

The foundation of the fire station will be completed in the next two weeks. It is hoped the insulation and embankment will be finished before the snow.

## PUBLIC WORKS

The pipe flushing is completed as well as the verification of the hydrants. People are asked not to push their dead leaves into the street where they may block the pipes. Council thanks people for their patience during the work on Broadway Boulevard.

Salt trucking

**Renaud Ouellette/Annie Deschênes,**

- 2021-069 That the Grand Falls Town Council accept the lowest bid received from Brennan Farms Ltd for \$23.95 plus tax for road salt trucking for the 2021-2022 season. Carried**

Other submissions received:

Les Fermes Dani Inc.	\$24
Carvell Goodine & Sons Ltd.	\$26.35
Frederick Dunster & Sons Ltd.	\$28
Kingsco Transport	\$34.76

ADMINISTRATION, HUMAN RESOURCES, COMMUNICATION

The committees are doing well. The staff is currently focusing their energies on the preparation of the 2022 budgets.

Communication with the public continues to be improved. Respectful comments are encouraged on social media and elsewhere. For specific files, people are asked to contact staff or Council directly, which will improve the response.

Trick or treating is allowed for Halloween this year. People are asked to follow Public Health guidelines.

Danny Rossignol – probation

**Annie Deschênes/Jean Réal Michaud,**

- 2021-070 Given that Danny Rossignol has successfully completed his probation period as a maintenance operator, that the Town Council confirms his status as a permanent employee. Carried**

Sylvain Poitras – probation

**Annie Deschênes/Joe Themens,**

- 2021-071 Given that Sylvain Poitras has successfully completed his probation period as an operator for the Public Works Department, that the Town Council confirms his status as a permanent employee. Carried**

Paul Guimont – probation

**Annie Deschênes/David Raines,**

- 2021-072 Given that Paul Guimont has successfully passed his probation period as a facility attendant for the Recreation, Tourism and Culture Department, that the Municipal Council confirms his status as a permanent employee. Carried**

Vaccination/Testing Policy

The Deputy Mayor reads the proposed policy. The Mayor asks that the policy be posted on the Town's social media.

**Renaud Ouellette/Jean Réal Michaud,**

- 2021-073 That the Grand Falls Town Council adopt Policy 2021-01, COVID-19 Vaccination/Testing as presented. Carried**

Procurement Policy – 5th Revision

Councillor Annie Deschênes explains that the thresholds have changed to reflect the provincial law and mentions the new preference clause for local businesses.

**Annie Deschênes/Renaud Ouellette,**

**2021-074 That the Grand Falls Town Council adopt Purchasing Policy 2004-02 (R5) as presented. Carried**

Policy on Working Conditions – Amendment 3

Councillor Annie Deschênes explains the amendment that ratifies the practice of granting non-unionized staff accumulated sick days upon their departure.

A second section has been added to clarify that a department head is not eligible for salary compensation when undertaking the duties of a subordinate.

**Annie Deschênes/Jean Réal Michaud,**

**2021-075 That the Council adopt Working Conditions Policy 2006-10 (R) Amendment 3 as presented. Carried**

Jamie Maurice Michaud and Gestion Ouellette Ltée. – zoning and municipal plan

**Joe Themens/Annie Deschênes,**

**2021-076 That resolution 2021-055 adopted on September 14 be repealed and replaced by the following:**

**That the Council publish a notice on its website and on its Facebook page under section 25 of the *Community Planning Act*, indicating its intention to amend the Municipal Plan in order to change the future use of the land for two parcels with PID 35369750 and 35369834. The first parcel is a part of a parcel owned by Gestion Ouellette Ltée., and the second is owned by Jamie Maurice Michaud. Both parcels are located on McCormick Street in Grand Falls, NB.**

**For the purposes of the Municipal Plan, future land use is changed as follows:**

- **Modify the future land use of a parcel of land bearing the PID 35369750, from Residential to Commercial.**
- **Modify the future land use of the plot bearing the PID 35369834, from Commercial to Residential.**

**That Council meet in Council Chambers on Tuesday, November 9, 2021, at 7 p.m., for the public presentation of the proposed amendments.**

**That objections to the proposed amendments may be submitted in writing to the Council by sending them to the Clerk's office within thirty (30) days of the date of the public presentation.**

**That the Clerk, in the name and on behalf of the Council, publish notices within the prescribed time, in accordance with the provisions of section 25 of the *Community Planning Act, 2017, Chapter 19*.**

**That Grand Falls Town Council seek the advice of the Planning Advisory Committee on this matter. Carried**

Hermel and Tina Michaud – zoning and municipal plan amendment

Joe Themens/Jean Réal Michaud,

2021-077 That resolution 2021-056 adopted on September 14 be repealed and replaced by the following:

That the Council publish a notice on its website and facebook page pursuant to section 25 of the *Community Planning Act* indicating its intention to amend the Municipal Plan in order to change the future use of the land of part of the property bearing the PID 65229122, owned by Hermel and Tina Michaud and located at 74 Harrison Street in Grand Falls, NB.

For the purposes of the Municipal Plan, land use is changed as follows:

- Modify the future land use of part of the land bearing the PID 65229122 from Commercial to Residential

That Council meet in Council Chambers on Tuesday, November 9, 2021, at 7 p.m., for the public presentation of the proposed amendments.

That objections to the proposed amendments may be submitted in writing to the Council by sending them to the Clerk's office within thirty (30) days of the date of the public presentation.

That the Clerk, in the name and on behalf of the Council, publish notices within the prescribed time, in accordance with the provisions of section 25 of the *Community Planning Act, 2017, Chapter 19*.

That Grand Falls Town Council seek the advice of the Planning Advisory Committee on this matter. Carried

J. D. Irving – Zoning and Municipal Plan Amendments

Joe Themens/David Raines,

2021-078 That Resolution 2021-057 adopted on September 14 be repealed and replaced by the following:

That the Council publish a notice on its website and facebook page under section 25 of the *Community Planning Act* indicating its intention to amend the Municipal Plan in order to change the future use of the land bearing the PID 35323591, owned by J D Irving Limited and located at 88 Powers Street in Grand Falls, NB.

For the purposes of the Municipal Plan, land use is proposed as follows:

- Modify the future land use of the land bearing the PID 35323591 from Commercial to Industrial.

That Council meet in Council Chambers on Tuesday, November 9, 2021, at 7 p.m., for the public presentation of the proposed amendments.

That objections to the proposed amendments may be submitted in writing to Council by sending them to the office of the Clerk within thirty (30) days of the date of the public presentation.

That the Clerk, in the name and on behalf of the Council, publish notices within the prescribed time, in accordance with the provisions of section 25 of the *Community Planning Act, 2017, Chapter 19*.

**That Grand Falls Town Council seek the advice of the Planning Advisory Committee on this matter. Carried**

FINANCE

It's already the time to prepare the 2022 budgets. They will be presented at the next public meeting in November.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Knights of Columbus – parking

An agreement in principle has been signed for the land along Front Street.

NEW BUSINESS

By-law 18 – Amendment 2021-01

The Deputy Clerk read the amendment in its entirety.

Renaud Ouellette/Annie Deschênes, that Town Council adopt first reading of Amendment 2021-01 to By-law 18, a by-law concerning the Grand Falls Town Council's Code of Conduct, as read. Carried

The Deputy Clerk gave second reading in title.

Joe Themens/Jean Réal Michaud, that Town Council adopt second reading of Amendment 2021-01 to By-law 18, a by-law concerning the Grand Falls Town Council's Code of Conduct, as read. Carried

OTHER – interventions by council, public and media

- intervention of Council

Broadway Boulevard – the Mayor acknowledges the difficulties businesses along the boulevard have been subjected to during construction. This work had to be done and will last for a very long time. The Council wishes everyone a prosperous future.

Olivine Desjardins, letter – the Mayor reads a letter received from Ms. Desjardins according to her request. In her letter, Ms. Desjardins mentions the impact of the pandemic and asks that volunteers be supported at clinics and elsewhere. She is counting on leaders to encourage people to get vaccinated.

The Mayor offers thanks to all volunteers and first responders from Council, Town staff and residents.

COVID-19

The Mayor informs people that the vaccination rate within the town limits was at 74% fully vaccinated and 91% partially vaccinated two weeks ago. It is anticipated that this percentage will have increased in the next report by Public Health. Municipal staff are 92% vaccinated with others who are partially vaccinated. It is hoped that the percentage will increase by November 30 when the vaccination policy comes into effect.

The Mayor says he is fully vaccinated and encourages people to get vaccinated but maintains that it is a personal decision that must be respected.

The Deputy Mayor thanks the people who remain vigilant towards the health measures for COVID-19.

### Gala

The Council congratulates the people who won an award at the gala: Marcelle Fafard-Godbout, Marc-André Ouellette Construction and Trésors et Délices. Council also thanked the volunteers and organizers of the Gala.

- public intervention

### Bilingualism

A viewer asks why meetings are not bilingual. The Mayor explains that the population is 80% Francophone and that the translated minutes are available on request. The Municipality tries as much as possible to do everything in both official languages and questions are answered in the language they are received.

### Collection of hazardous products

The collection was cancelled due to restrictions. People will be advised of the next pick-up by the Regional Services Commission.

### Police Force / RCMP

There is a question about whether the changes within the RCMP could affect our police force. Not at the moment.

One person asked if the Town is committed to hiring local youth on the police force. Councillor Michaud replied that the Town was interested but could not commit to future hires.

### Thanks

The Mayor thanks the technical team as well as the people who are watching on Facebook. It is to be hoped that the next meeting will be open to the public.

### ADJOURNMENT

Jean Réal Michaud/Joe Themens, moved that the meeting is adjourned at 8:15 p.m.  
Carried

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Marcel Deschênes  
Mayor

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Lise J. Ouellette  
Deputy Clerk