

The Corporation of The Town of Parry Sound

Council Meeting Minutes July 4, 2023

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Council Meeting Minutes - July 4, 2023

7:02 PM, Parry Sound Council Chambers 52 Seguin St. Parry Sound

Members Present

Mayor McGarvey, Councillor Ashford, Councillor Beleskey, Councillor Borneman, Councillor Keith, Councillor McCann, Councillor McDonald

Staff Present:

CAO Clayton Harris, Clerk Rebecca Johnson, Director of Public Works Mike Kearns, Director of Finance Stephanie Phillips, Director of Development & Protective Services Dave Thompson, Manager of Planning Jeremy Rand, Manager of Parks & Recreation April McNamara, Manager of Operations Vinni Bonazza

Prior to the Regular Meeting, Council adjourned to a meeting closed to the public per the following resolution.

Resolution 2023 - 089

That pursuant to Section 239(2) of the Municipal Act, R.S.O. 2001, Chapter 25, as amended, the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Parry Sound move to a meeting closed to the public in order to address a matter(s) pertaining to:

a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land for municipal or local board purposes, **(considerations for negotiated acquisition of property)**

Carried

Presentation/Announcements

OGRA Long Service Award - Gary Stephenson

Mayor McGarvey read from a letter of congratulations from the Ontario Good Roads Association (OGRA) commending retired heavy equipment operator Gary Stephenson on his 49 years of service with the Town of Parry Sound.

1. Agenda and Minutes Review

1.1 Land Acknowledgement

1.2 Additions to Agenda - N/A

1.3 Prioritization of Agenda

Mayor McGarvey prioritized 9.5.2 to be dealt with after 9.2.1 on the agenda.

1.4 Adoption of Agenda

Moved by Councillor McCann Seconded by Councillor Ashford

That the Council agenda for July 4, 2023 be approved as amended.

Carried

1.5 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

1.5.1 Councillor McCann declared pecuniary interest on item 9.5.4 on the agenda, being support for the Parry Sound Community Radio Association as he is the Chair of the Board and may be potentially employed as station manager. Councillor McCann left the room for duration of the item, did not participate in discussion, nor vote on the matter. Councillor McCann also removed himself from the Council table and sat in the audience for deputation item 5.1 on the same matter.

1.5.2 Councillor Ashford declared conflict of interest on item 9.5.4 on the agenda, being support for the Parry Sound Community Radio Association as he is on the Board. Councillor Ashford left the room for duration of the item, did not participate in

discussion, nor vote on the matter. Councillor Ashford also removed himself from the Council table and sat in the audience for deputation item 5.1 on the same matter.

1.6 Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Keith

Seconded by Councillor McDonald

That the Minutes from the Regular Council meeting held June 20, 2023 be approved as circulated.

Carried

2. Public Meeting - N/A

3. Questions of Staff

3.1 In response to Councillor McCann's inquiry as to how much longer George Street will be closed to accommodate construction of a development, Director of Public Works Mike Kearns reported that the closure is for servicing work and reconstruction of part of George Street for a wider benefit than just the new development. Mr. Kearns noted that the servicing and reconstruction work will be finished soon.

3.2 In response to Councillor Borneman's inquiry as to when the bridge at River/Cascade Streets would be finished, Mr. Kearns reported that at a progress meeting today at the bridge, he learned that the work is on schedule and should be completed early to mid-August.

3.3 In response to Councillor Borneman's inquiry regarding limbing of trees on the Fitness Trail, Mr. Kearns noted that spreading the material on the Fitness Trail is challenging in some areas, and therefore pruning and limbing has been necessary and the debris still needs to be cleaned up. Mayor McGarvey also reported that limbing work needs to be done around Mclsaac Way due to much overgrowth. Mr. Kearns also noted that the growth under the Seguin River bridge needs to be pruned and addressed with a longer term strategy.

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3.4 In response to Councillor Keith's inquiry regarding anecdotes of people lighting fireworks over the weekend, Director of Development & Protective Services/Fire Chief Dave Thompson noted that he too had heard that there may have been fireworks set off in Town, although the Fire Department did not receive any calls to deal with anything. Chief Thompson noted that the Department is proceeding with a zero tolerance approach and if they had received calls, they would have investigated and levied fines against the perpetrator.

4. Correspondence

4.1 Eric McIntyre RE: Appreciation for Town efforts, and areas of concern - referred to relevant departments for information and/or follow-up as appropriate.

4.2 Dale Landry RE: Request By-law amended to permit boulevard parking - covered by a motion under item 5.3 for a staff report back to Council on the issue.

4.3 Habitat for Humanity RE: request to purchase Emily Street lot to build house - covered by a motion under item 5.2 for a staff report back to Council on the issue.

4.4 Township of Ryerson RE: Support for Town of Parry Sound Resolution re: calling upon federal and provincial government for additional resources to combat opioid crisis - filed.

4.5 Township of Machar RE: Support for Town of Parry Sound Resolution re: calling upon federal and provincial government for additional resources to combat opioid crisis - filed.

5. Deputations

5.1 Bob Bowland, Parry Sound Community Radio Association

Parry Sound Community Radio Association Board Director Bob Bowland, former owner of MOOSE FM, (previously named LP 103), addressed Council with respect to the benefits and value of a community radio station. Mr. Bowland provided background on

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his own experience in radio culminating in his ownership and management of MOOSE FM. Mr. Bowland provided information on the number of community radio stations in Ontario, typical financing through eligible grants, advertising, radio bingo and draws, their use of volunteer help, and mission to connect with the community at large through local news, weather, and discussions on topics of interest.

Mr. Bowland said that a studio location has been found and the association is in discussion with the Town about use of the Water Tower on Bowes Street for an antennae. Mr. Bowland reported that the municipalities of Seguin and McKellar have provided resolutions of support for the PS Community Radio Association and the Association is seeking the same from the Town of Parry Sound.

Mr. Bowland responded to questions of Council, including employment arrangements and how the effectiveness of radio stations through ratings is measured.

5.2 Doug McDonald, Chair of the local Parry Sound Chapter of Habitat for Humanity addressed Council further to the letter provided under item 4.3 regarding purchasing Town owned Emily Street property upon which to build a house for a family in need. Mr. McDonald noted that the local Chapter has built 4 homes since 2011 and is in a position to build another after COVID temporarily shut down funding from Restores.

Mr. McDonald reported that if the Town is willing to sell, the local Chapter would appreciate some consideration on price and development fees. Mr. McDonald explained the Habitat for Humanity financing model, noting that a family was not required to make a down payment, and would have a zero interest mortgage geared to 25% of income. Once built, the mortgage was set for the house's market value and was held by Habitat. Habitat has the first right to buy back the house, should the family wish to move.

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Moved by Councillor Ashford

Seconded by Councillor McDonald

That staff be directed to report to Council on potential for sale of Town owned properties on Emily Street to Habitat for Humanity, through declaration of property as surplus.

Carried

5.3 Dale Landry of 13 Rosetta Street addressed Council further to his letter provided under item 4.4 with respect to his request that the parking regulations by-law be amended to permit parking on grassed boulevards. Mr. Landry said that the current prohibition was not consistent with other similarly sized communities such as Bracebridge and Gravenhurst and he expressed concern that the prohibition is not supportive of increased housing density which will come with increased need for parking. Mr. Landry noted that his house is constructed on a reduced size lot, and part of the original agreement was to permit boulevard parking. Mr. Landry requested that the Town change the terms of the By-law to permit boulevard parking.

Director of Development and Protective Services Dave Thompson noted that he spoke with the By-law Enforcement Officer who said that that vast majority of municipal parking by-laws do not permit parking on grass boulevards and that this prohibition has been in place for at least as long as he has been with the Town - more than 10 years, and that it is enforced on a regular basis as necessary.

The following motion directing staff to report on the regulations was made:

Moved by Councillor Keith

Seconded by Councillor McCann

That staff be directed to report to Council on suggestions with respect to the parking by-law prohibiting parking on grass boulevards.

Carried

Councillor McCann suggested that if Mr. Landry has documentation permitting parking on grassed boulevards, this be considered for grandfathering into existing regulations.

Councillor Borneman suggested that the direction to staff shouldn't be limited to just this situation, but rather that parking regulations should be considered in the context of increased housing densities of the future.

Councillor Beleskey noted that the boulevard also serves a purpose for snow storage, and this needs to be considered if parking is permitted on boulevards.

6. Mayor & Councillors' Reports

Mayor & Councillors gave reports on meetings attended and matters arising.

7. Ratification of Matters From Closed Agenda - N/A

8. Consent Agenda

9. Resolutions and Direction To Staff

9.1 Development & Protective Services

9.2 CAO Office/Administration

9.2.1 Strategic Action Plan 2023

Spokespersons: Clayton Harris, CAO; Stephanie Phillips, Director of Finance; Mike Kearns, Director of Public Works; Dave Thompson, Director of Development and Protective Services.

Prior to Council's consideration of the Resolution, Consultant Karen Jones gave an overview on the process for arriving at the Strategic Action Plan 2023.

Resolution 2023 - 090

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Moved by Councillor McDonald Seconded by Councillor Borneman

That Council of the Town of Parry Sound adopt the Strategic Action Plan 2023 as a compendium to the 2020 - 2030 Strategic Plan as updated.

The following motion to postpone was made:

Moved by Borneman Seconded by Councillor McCann

THAT the resolution adopting the Strategic Action Plan 2023 be postponed to the August 8, 2023 Council Meeting in order that the public has opportunity to comment.

Carried to Postpone to August 8, 2023 Council Meeting

9.3 Finance and POA Court Services

9.4 Public Works

9.4.1 Commitment and Endorsement of Drinking Water Quality Management Standard

Spokesperson: Mike Kearns, Director of Public Works

Resolution 2023 - 091

Moved by Councillor McCann Seconded by Councillor McDonald

That Council authorize the Mayor and CAO to endorse and approve the Town of Parry Sound Drinking Water Quality Management Standard and Operational Plan by signing the Commitment and Endorsement of QMS and Operational Plan, attached as Schedule "A".

Carried

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9.4.2 2023 Municipal Assistance Program Allocation

Spokesperson: April McNamara, Manager of Parks & Recreation

Resolution 2023 - 092

Moved by Councillor Keith

Seconded by Councillor Ashford

That Council approve the 2023 Municipal Assistance Program allocations per Attachment #1, Schedule A.

Carried

Manager of Parks & Recreation April McNamara left the meeting at 8:24 PM

9.5 Other Business

9.5.1 Federal Support Request for Town Dock Repairs

Spokesperson: Mayor McGarvey

Resolution 2023 - 093

Moved by Councillor Ashford

Seconded by Councillor Beleskey

Whereas the Town Dock is owned by the Federal Government, and the Town of Parry Sound holds a Head Lease for its operation; and

Whereas the Federal Government is not maintaining this infrastructure and the burden of the repairs is falling to the Town of Parry Sound; and

Whereas the Federal Government receives a payment of the gross revenues of the Town Dock; however, the municipality runs a net deficit to operate the Town Dock and keep it at a minimum maintenance level; and

Whereas use of the Town Dock has increased with emergence of the Great Lakes Cruise Ship Industry; and

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Whereas the Cruise Ship Industry provides economic spin off benefits for the broader Great Lakes Area; and

Whereas the increase or the size and number of Cruise ships attending the Town Dock is causing increased deterioration to the Town Dock;

Therefore be it resolved that the Town of Parry Sound Council requests the Federal Government to properly maintain and invest in the federal infrastructure of the Town Dock through upgrades and maintenance that will allow for the increased usage of the facility to continue and allow for the economic benefits to the broader Great Lakes area to also continue without the financial burden falling to the Town of Parry Sound.

And further that this resolution be sent to the Honourable Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Infrastructure and Communities Dominic Leblanc, the Honourable Minister of Transport Omar Alghabra, and Parry Sound Muskoka MP Scott Aitchison.

Carried

9.5.2 Enbridge Gas Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) Parry Sound Pilot Project

Prior to Council's vote on the Resolution, Enbridge representative Chris Ripley responded to Councillor questions regarding the Pilot Program.

Resolution 2023 - 094

Moved by Councillor Beleskey

Seconded by Councillor Ashford

Whereas the purpose of Enbridge Gas' Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) Parry Sound Pilot Project is to test and better understand the impacts that enhanced targeted energy efficiency (ETEE) has on reducing the natural gas system's peak period demand; and

Whereas ETEE involves offering targeted energy efficiency programs that support a reduction in peak period natural gas demands; and

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Whereas the learning's from this Pilot Project will lead to better decision making and informed system development, and shape asset management planning for years to come; and

Whereas the Pilot Project represents an opportunity for the Town of Parry Sound to participate in the energy transition in Ontario; and

Whereas participating customers in Parry Sound will benefit through enhanced energy efficiency programming that can help reduce consumption and potentially lower energy bills;

Now Therefore, the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Parry Sound hereby supports Enbridge Gas' Integrated Resources Planning (IRP) Parry Sound Pilot Project.

Carried

9.5.3 Support for AMO Recommendations on Municipal Codes of Conduct

Spokesperson: Mayor McGarvey

Resolution 2023 - 095

Moved by Councillor Ashford

Seconded by Councillor Beleskey

Whereas a safe and respectful work environment is a basic expectation for all Ontarians; and

Whereas serving our communities in a leadership role is a privilege and a responsibility; and

Whereas improving local public discourse will improve public confidence in local government and increase respect for our municipal institutions and the work we do; and

Whereas democracy suffers when the public loses confidence in their local representatives and institutions;

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Whereas Codes of Conduct for local municipal leaders should be updated to include workplace safety and harassment policies; and

Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), the Ontario Big City Mayors and over 155 municipalities in Ontario all passed resolutions calling for government legislation to stop harassment and abuse by local municipal leaders, and

Whereas on May 31, 2023 the Ontario government voted against enacting Bill 5, Stopping Harassment and Abuse by Local Leaders Act, 2023;

Now therefore the Council of the Town of Parry Sound:

1. supports the recommendations of AMO that:

- Codes of Conduct should be updated to include workplace safety and harassment policies;
- Codes of Conduct should have an escalating enforcement mechanism through administrative monetary penalties that recognize local circumstances;
- Integrity Commissioners should have better, standardized training to improve consistency of decisions across the province;
- in the most egregious cases, such as harassment or assault, municipalities should be able to apply to a judge to remove a sitting member if recommended by an Integrity Commissioner;
- a member removed under this process should be unable to sit in another election during the term of office removed and the subsequent term; and

2. urges the Ontario Government to table and pass legislation to make these changes as soon as possible; and

3. forwards copies of this resolution to The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; Honourable Stephen Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing; Honourable Charmaine Williams, Associate Minister of Women's Social and Economic Opportunity;

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Stephen Blais, Member, Standing Committee on Justice Policy, Parry Sound Muskoka
MPP Graydon Smith and AMO.

Carried

9.5.4 Parry Sound Community Radio Association

Resolution 2023 - 096

Moved by Councillor McDonald

Seconded by Councillor Borneman

WHEREAS community radio upholds, roots, promotes and advocates on behalf of the people, organizations, business and industry;

AND WHEREAS a strong community builds strong individuals, neighbourhoods, business and industry;

AND WHEREAS community radio renders a collective voice for the community, manifests and sustains the community's identity, and emerges, expands and advances the community;

AND WHEREAS airwaves are public property and not-for-profit community radio ownership provides community access to the airwaves and fosters programming based on community participation, reflects the special interests and needs of its listeners, stimulates cultural enrichment and socio-economic endeavours;

AND WHEREAS community radio promotes diversity in the broadcasting of opinions, spoken word content and musical programming and focuses on the arts, local history and interests, needs and initiatives, including local and municipal news, current events and local sports all of which form the basis of the station's programming;

AND WHEREAS today's commercial media landscape has become more centralized in corporate interests and less focussed on comprehensive local coverage and content;

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NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Parry Sound hereby recognizes the importance and validity of community radio and its value in preserving and building a local, collective voice and identity while supporting and advocating local interests; and

THAT The Town of Parry Sound supports an application to the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) for community FM radio as proposed by the Parry Sound Community Radio Association.

Carried

10. By-laws

10.1 Development and Protective Services

10.1.1 Wasauksing Fire Protection Agreement

Spokesperson: Dave Thompson, Director of Development and Protective Services

By-law 2023 - 7356

Being a By-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute a Fire Protection Agreement with Wasauksing First Nation for a portion of Wasauksing First Nation.

Read a First, Second and Third time, Passed, Signed and Sealed

10.1.2 Zoning By-law Amendment - Z/23/02 - Great North Road (John Jackson Planner Inc. on Behalf of Ravi Prasher in Trust.)

Spokesperson: Jeremy Rand, Manager of Planning

By-law 2023 - 7357

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Being a By-law to amend By-law No. 2004-4653 (The Zoning By-law), as amended, for 51 Great North Road and is described as Plan 137, SPC Parcel A

Read a First, Second and Third time, Passed, Signed and Sealed

10.1.3 Zoning By-law Amendment - Z/23/03 - 79 River Street (Brownley and Rose)

Spokesperson: Jeremy Rand, Manager of Planning

By-law 2023 - 7358

Being a By-law to amend By-law No. 2004-4653 (The Zoning By-law), as amended, for 79 River Street and legally described as South Part of Lot 9, Plan 21.

Read a First, Second and Third time, Passed, Signed and Sealed

10.2 CAO Office/Administration

10.3 Finance and POA Court Services

10.4 Public Works

10.5 Other Business

10.5.1 Confirming By-law

By-law 2023 - 7359

Being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of Council.

Read a First, Second and Third time, Passed, Signed and Sealed

11. Adjournment

Mayor McGarvey adjourned the meeting at 8:57 PM

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Mayor Jamie McGarvey

Clerk Rebecca Johnson