

Region of Queens Municipality Special Council

Wednesday, December 1, 2021, 12:00 Noon

Minutes

Present: Mayor Darlene Norman, Chair
Deputy Mayor Kevin Muise
Councillor Maddie Charlton
Councillor Ralph Gidney
Councillor Vicki Amirault
Councillor Jack Fancy
Councillor David Brown
Councillor Carl Hawkes
Chris McNeill, CAO
Christine Watson, Admin. Assistant – Planning & Development

1.0 Call to Order

Mayor Norman called the meeting to order at 12:00 Noon.

2.0 Agenda Approval

Mayor Norman stated an In-Camera Item 5.1 Contract Negotiations will be added to the agenda.

It was moved by Councillor Brown and seconded by Councillor Charlton:

THAT a Public Comment section be added to the agenda.

MOTION CARRIED with 7 in favour and 1 against.

It was moved by Councillor Brown and seconded by Councillor Amirault:

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

3.0 Public Comment

Joanne Lenethen, 41 Ponhook Lodge, Ponhook – Ms. Lenethen stated she is neither for or against the vaccine and believed that as individuals, people should be able to make informed decisions for themselves and not be mandated go get the vaccine, and is against a person losing their job if not vaccinated.

David Huskins, 160 Church Street, Liverpool – Mr. Huskins stated if this is a government rule, then we should pass it.

Paula Doucet, 89 Waterloo Street, Liverpool – Ms. Doucet stated she was happy to see this Policy before Council. She agreed that people should have their own choice, but in this situation, if you make the choice not to be vaccinated, she feels that people should stay home and not come out and work in a place where what you do is going to effect the health and safety of others.

She further stated, that she is specifically not taking any classes at the Emera Center as she does not want to participate in a class where the instructor is not masked. The epidemiologists are saying that this virus is airborne. Viruses are lethal to some and this issue is serious.

She feels RQM is doing the best they can to protect the community and keeping residents safe and healthy to the best of their ability. Yes people who are double vaccinated can still catch the virus, but do what they can to protect themselves.

She thanked Council for taking the step to try and help with the health of residents.

Celeste Johnston, 120 Edgewater Drive, Hunts Point – Ms. Johnston stated she strongly agrees with Ms. Doucet and stated when interacting with public, the public needs to be protected. The virus is not going away and we know now there is a new variant with several mutations.

She further stated she is happy to live in a place that is protecting its residents.

4.0 Policy 93 – Vaccination Mandates

It was moved by Councillor Amirault and seconded by Councillor Brown:

THAT Council of Region of Queens Municipality approve Policy 93 respecting Vaccine Mandates.

Adam Grant, Director of Engineering and Public Works, Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee Co-Chair, and Scott LeBlanc, Solid Waste Clerk/Safety Officer, were welcomed to answer any questions on the policy.

Mr. Grant stated the policy seeks to implement vaccine requirements for staff, contractors, members of the public and guests to Municipal spaces.

The Region's Joint Occupational Health & Safety Committee Mission statement says that we will not knowingly expose ourselves, contractors or members of the general public to unacceptable health and safety risks during the execution of public services.

The proposed policy was reviewed by the Region's Joint Occupational Health & Safety Committee and voted unanimously in favor of recommending the adoption of it.

Councillor Charlton enquired to the timeline for employees to receive their vaccines, citing the optimal time between vaccines is longer and if employees would be able to opt for this. Mr. Grant stated consideration would be taken on a case by case basis.

Councillor Fancy enquired if taking temperatures would be taken into consideration. Mr. Grant stated employees are now using the rapid tests which are more accurate. Mr. LeBlanc stated employees are required to self-monitor and if not feeling well, should stay home.

Councillor Charlton enquired if there would be consideration for RQM to host a vaccine clinic. Mayor Norman stated that everything will be done to assist employees in getting to a vaccine clinic.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

5.0 In Camera

It was moved by Councillor Brown and seconded by Deputy Mayor Muise that the proceedings go In-Camera at 12:20 to discuss the following:

5.1 Contract Negotiations

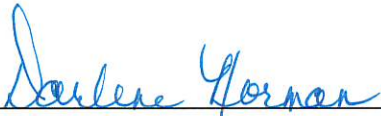
MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

It was moved by Councillor Gidney and seconded by Councillor Amirault that the proceedings exit In-Camera at 12:58 p.m.

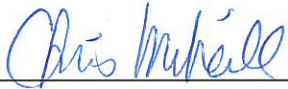
MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

6.0 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:59 p.m.



Mayor Darlene Norman, Chair



Chris McNeill, CAO



Christine Watson, Administrative Assistant – Planning & Development

Date Approved:

December 14, 2021