

**Region of Queens Municipality Regular Council
Tuesday, January 25, 2022, 6:00 p.m. via Zoom**

Minutes

Present: Mayor Darlene Norman, Chair
Deputy Mayor Kevin Muise – Joined at 6:32 p.m.
Councillor David Brown
Councillor Maddie Charlton
Councillor Ralph Gidney
Councillor Vicki Amirault
Councillor Jack Fancy
Councillor Carl Hawkes – Joined at 6:08 p.m.
Chris McNeill, CAO
Christine Watson, Admin. Assistant – Planning & Development

1.0 Call to Order

Mayor Norman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2.0 Changes / Approval of Agenda

It was moved by Councillor Gidney and seconded by Councillor Brown that the Agenda be approved as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

3.0 Tabling of Petitions

There were no petitions to come before this meeting.

4.0 Public Question / Comment Session

Leon Robertson, 45 College Street, Liverpool – Mr. Robertson enquired if the cost of installation was included or extra under items 6.5 – Tender Submissions for Universally-Designed Playpark Equipment at Etli Militamk. Mayor Norman stated this would be discussed later on the agenda.

Mr. Robertson further enquired about renovations for tenant under Item 6.7 – Request from Liverpool Business Development Centre Tenant. Mayor Norman advised Mr. Robertson that a call centre is operating at this

location and if he is interested in information pertaining to this, he can make contact with her and she will provide him with the information.

Anne Laws, 19 Old Meeting House Road, Beach Meadows and 39 Rock Island Lane, Labelle – Mrs. Laws provided comments concerning the second reading of the proposed Noise Bylaw. She stated the proposed quiet hours will now be from 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. which does not allow kids and families 8 hours of uninterrupted rest. She requested to ask each member of Council if they acknowledge this. Mayor Norman stated that this was not a question/answer session for Councillors, but is an opportunity for residents to address Council.

Mrs. Laws further stated that this proposed Noise Bylaw tells us that in the Region of Queens any noise, no matter how loud or how prolonged, will be tolerated and have to be tolerated by citizens as there is no recourse through the Region or through the RCMP, as they will not file a disturbing of the peace charge for noise.

Despite having citizen complaints, if Council accepts this Noise Bylaw as proposed, they have shown a lack of responsible standard of care and have displayed a market departure of the standard of which responsible and competent people habitually govern themselves, which is the dictionary definition in Canadian Laws of gross negligence. You are aware of problems that during quiet time hours they cannot be addressed because Region of Queens has an ineffective Bylaw and the RCMP refuses to lay a disturbing the peace charge. In that, I feel that if Council does vote through this proposed Noise Bylaw that the Ad Hoc Committee has brought forward that you are grossly negligent and I believe you can be challenged.

5.0 Approval of Minutes

5.1 Regular Council – January 11, 2022

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

THAT the minutes of the Regular Council meeting held January 11, 2022 be approved as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

6.0 Recommendations

6.1 Ad Hoc Noise Bylaw Committee Recommendation – Second Reading

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

THAT Council of Region of Queens Municipality give second reading to a Bylaw Respecting Noise.

Councillor Fancy stated he looked at the HRM Noise Bylaw No. 200 and they address things such as fireworks and enquired why can't we do that here, i.e. restrictions? Mayor Norman stated any municipality is free to try and enforce bylaws. The Ad Hoc Committee which had a representative from each district did not believe that fireworks bylaws were something we should be enforcing; therefore as Council recommended, we followed the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee.

Councillor Brown, as part of the Ad Hoc Committee, stated they understood what was wanted as part of the bylaw and what was not. Fireworks was looked at, but unenforceable as our county is so large and we do not have RCMP stations throughout. He is aware of a group trying to ban them as there were some unfortunate events during New Year's. This is an improvement of the previous policy. It is a living document and can be changed, and believes this is a good place to start.

Councillor Charlton stated that she also was part of the Ad Hoc Committee and agreed with Councillor Brown's comments and supports the document.

Councillor Gidney stated he did not understand why the RCMP won't investigate noise complaints during non-quiet hours. They should speak to the residents to find out what is going on, and feels at least to follow-up even if charges are not laid. Mayor Norman stated that she is aware that the people involved have contacted the RCMP and have had various discussions with them. At this point in time there has been little satisfaction on the complainant's part; however

that is not to say that things will not change in the future.

MOTION CARRIED with 5 in favour and 2 against.

6.2 Ad Hoc Personnel Policy Review Committee

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

THAT Council of Region of Queens Municipality appoint Councillor Vicki Amirault and Councillor Ralph Gidney to the Ad Hoc Personnel Policy Review Committee.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

6.3 Transgender Week Flag Request

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

THAT Council of Region of Queens Municipality approve the application made by Diversity and Inclusion Action Team to have a Transgender flag flown on the Special Purpose flagpole located in front of the Town Hall Arts and Cultural Centre, Liverpool for a one week period, from November 14 through November 20 (inclusive), 2022.

Councillor Gidney enquired when the Veteran Flag would be flown in November. Shelley Connolly, Deputy Clerk, stated the Veteran Flag would be flown November 1 – 14 and the Transgender flag would be flown November 14 – 20.

MOTION CARRIED with 6 in favour and 1 against.

6.4 Region 6 Solid Waste Management – 2022/2023 Budget

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

THAT Council of Region of Queens Municipality approve Region 6 Solid Waste Management's proposed budget for the year 2022/2023.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

6.5 Tender Submissions for Universally-Designed Playpark Equipment at Etili Militamk

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

THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality authorize staff to negotiate final design and purchase of playpark components with PlayPower at the estimated cost of \$164,719.47 plus HST.

Elise Johnston, Accessibility Coordinator, stated RQM entered into an Agreement with PAC Autism Nova Scotia in April 2019 for the installation of an inclusive playground which was extended for an additional year until April 9, 2022.

Autism Nova Scotia would be responsible to source appropriate playground equipment and amenities. They put together the preliminary budget and together with the local fundraising team, provided the tender package. This then went to RQM to manage the tender process to purchase the equipment.

The Steering Committee consists of Chris McNeill, CAO; Adam Grant, Director of Engineering & Public Works; Meaghan Roberts Director of Recreation & Healthy Communities; Dana Henley, Community Development Coordinator; and Ms. Johnston.

Specifics identified by PAC Autism Nova Scotia were things such as ramped accesses, a roof, a variety of level challenges, interactive

panels, inclusive sandbox, spinners, wobbling or rocking elements, and a variety of swing sets. The Steering Committee asked for the standard CSA and accessibility standards to be met, warranties and maintenance info, local references were checked, and rationale on elements.

For the play equipment, we have asked for the design, supply and the installation of the equipment that excludes the site prep, excavation, and surfacing.

Request for Proposals were issued in early December and four proposals were received from three companies. PlayPower met the criteria and is the best choice, although they had the latest delivery dates. It was felt that the value was worth the wait.

Councillors offered their thanks to all involved for all their hard work.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

6.6 Tender Submissions for Universally-Designed Spray Pad Components at Etli Militamk

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

THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality authorize staff to negotiate final design and purchase of spray pad components with ABC Recreation at an estimated cost of \$69,983.68 plus HST.

Meaghan Roberts, Director of Recreation and Healthy Communities, stated the process for the Request For Proposal (RFP) for the spray pad was the same as for the play park which incorporated the suggestions from PAC Autism Committee.

Three proposals for the spray pad were received from two companies. The Committee met to review the proposals and determined that Option A from ABC Recreation stood out with the largest number of elements and varied water features, and was within the allowable water consumption.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

6.7 Request from Liverpool Business Development Centre Tenant

It was moved by Councillor Fancy and seconded by Councillor Gidney:

THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality authorize an estimated investment of \$33,500 plus HST in Liverpool Business Development Centre to develop separate washroom and kitchen facilities for Belliveau Veinotte, to be funded from the Special Operating Reserve.

Councillor Amirault enquired if RQM staff will complete the work or hire an outside contractor. Adam Grant, Director of Engineering & Public Works, stated RQM staff will be doing the work with the exception of two local subcontractors to assist with some.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

6.8 Municipal Innovation Program Application

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

THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality authorize the submission of an application under the province's Municipal Innovation Program for up to 75% funding for an Asset Management Coordinator and associated costs.

Mayor Norman stated previously RQM thought that the funds to hire this employee would come from the gas tax, but unless it is an outside contractor, these funds are not available. The Municipal Innovation Program under the province is accepting applications to provide up to 75% of the cost.

Councillor Charlton enquired if the 75% was just for one year. Mr. McNeill stated yes. Councillor Charlton stated with the understanding of paying this employee from gas tax, that consideration be given to the position being changed to a term position for the first year and reassess whereas there is no guarantee that the full 75% will be granted.

Mayor Norman stated if we do not apply for the grant now, we will not have it, and as discussed, we know that this position is for at least for two years. We could advertise as a one year term position, with the qualifications needed to complete the project, and pay the full amount ourselves.

Deputy Mayor Muise stated he agreed with Councillor Charlton that we should look at having the position as a two year term whereas the funding cannot come from the gas tax.

Councillor Brown stated when this position was discussed at the last Council meeting, it was stated this position would become a full time position by transitioning into Public Works when the asset portion of the position was completed, which is a two year project. If we do not get this project done, there will not be any gas tax credits given to RQM. If RQM loses the gas tax credits, it will negatively impact tax rates for our residents. If we have to find funding for this out of our operating budget, it frees up the money from the gas tax we are getting, so it's no difference for the money we spend each year, it's just an accounting procedure as to which account it comes from. RQM needs to get moving on this project and cannot afford to wait.

Councillors Gidney and Fancy agreed that this position should now be a two year term.

Mr. McNeill stated the two year term will limit candidates and may delay in finding a suitable candidate. Councillor Charlton enquired what would happen should no one apply. Mr. McNeill stated the job would be contracted out to the private sector and cost 2 – 3 times more. Councillor Amirault agreed with Mr. McNeill.

MOTION DEFEATED with 4 in favour and 4 against.

7.0 Discussions

7.1 Provision of Staff for Income Tax Booking

Councillor Amirault stated when it was discovered that RQM would not be taking bookings for income tax as staff are too busy, community members have stepped up to fulfill this vacancy. She thanked them.

Mayor Norman stated Ted Bulley will be providing the name and number the first of February and residents can call at that time for appointments.

7.2 Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities 2022 Spring Conference

Mayor Norman stated Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities is holding their 2022 Spring Conference at White Point Beach Resort May 4 – 6, 2022, depending on Covid restrictions. They are looking for a representative from the Municipality where the conference is being hosted in Queens to sit on the Planning Committee. The Planning Committee will look at all suggestions submitted and provide topics for discussion and are expected to attend the entire conference, make introductions, etc. They will meet in early February. The hosting municipality can provide a social night.

No Councillors came forward to sit on this Committee.

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

THAT Mayor Norman sit on the Planning Committee for the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities 2022 Spring Conference.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Mayor Norman asked if any Council member has any topics for discussions or issues to provide them to her.

8.0 In-Camera Items

It was moved by Councillor Charlton and seconded by Councillor Brown that the proceedings go In-Camera at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the following:

- 8.1 Contract Negotiations
- 8.2 Personnel
- 8.3 Personnel

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Mayor Norman announced a 10 minute break at 7:00 p.m.

It was moved by Councillor Gidney and seconded by Deputy Mayor Muise that the proceedings exit In-Camera at 8:23 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

- 8.3 Personnel

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

THAT Council of Region of Queens Municipality remove Melissa Thiele from the Audit and Internal Control Committee effective immediately for breach of Policy 74.


MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

9.0 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.



Mayor Darlene Norman, Chair



Chris McNeill, CAO



Christine Watson, Administrative Assistant – Planning & Development

Date Approved: Feb 8 2022