

Region of Queens Municipality Regular Council

Tuesday, June 28, 2022, 6:00 p.m.

Pleasant River Community Hall, 4882 Highway 208

Minutes

Present: Mayor Darlene Norman, Chair
Deputy Mayor Kevin Muise
Councillor David Brown
Councillor Maddie Charlton
Councillor Ralph Gidney
Councillor Vicki Amirault
Councillor Jack Fancy
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 6:27 p.m.

2.0 Changes / Approval of Agenda

Add In Camera Item 8.2 Potential Litigation

It was moved by Councillor Charlton and seconded by Councillor Gidney that the Agenda be approved as amended.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

3.0 Tabling of Petitions

There were no petitions to come before this meeting.

4.0 Public Question / Comment Session

Benson Frail, 9742 Highway 8 – Mr. Frail enquired under the Land Use Bylaw, if his property was deemed by the physical deed description or by satellite imagery, as there seems to be discrepancies. Mayor Norman stated staff will contact him with clarification.

Mr. Frail further enquired if there are any future plans for an additional Bylaw Enforcement Officer so all of Queens' residents are treated equal. Mayor Norman stated an additional Bylaw Enforcement is a budgetary issue and a decision of Council.

Ian Kent, 521 Brooklyn Shore Road – Mr. Kent commented on the development near Eagle Head Beach and suggested RQM pause the project until it is clear that no injustices are occurring, i.e. environmental issues and to allow time to confirm if the construction should be happening and to make sure it is done right.

5.0 Approval of Minutes

5.1 Regular Council – June 14, 2022

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

THAT the minutes of the Regular Council meeting held June 14, 2022 be approved as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

6.0 Recommendations

6.1 Review of Hillsview Acres Job Descriptions

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

THAT Council of Region of Queens Municipality approve the attached job descriptions for Hillsview Acres.

Joanne Veinotte, Director of Corporate Services, stated it is stipulated through the Provincial Long Term Care Program that all job descriptions be reviewed every four years. They were approved by Council in December 2017 and only minor changes have been made, one job title and the reporting requirements for the Administrator changed from Chief Administrative Officer to Director of Corporate Services.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

6.2 Liverpool Business Development Center

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Muise and seconded by Councillor Brown:

THAT Council of Region of Queens Municipality approves project commencement for the Liverpool Development Center, which will include design and installation of a four quadrant HVAC system estimated to cost \$1.9 million. Project will be funded 50% from Special Operating Reserves and 50% from long term borrowing.

Ms. Veinotte stated she has looked into rates on short-term borrowing which are presently at 2.95%, but will not seek short-term funding until necessary as 50% of the project is funded from Special Operating Reserves. In order for long term borrowing, the job has to be completed before applying.

Councillor Fancy noted it was no good to move forward with investing money into the project if there isn't enough housing for the workers who move to the area.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

7.0 Discussions

7.1 Town Hall Arts and Cultural Centre – Accessibility Renovations

Mike MacLeod, Director of Planning and Development, stated the Town Hall Arts and Cultural Centre has been identified as a priority by the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) for accessibility issues.

The AAC at their June meeting discussed possible options to make the facility more accessible and felt that a new ramped entry on the RBC side of the building would meet the needs of users of the facility.

Appendix B is the response we received to our letter dated May 26 which outlined recommendations for the accessibility plan. Their comments included:

- Financial assistance with snow removal. Extending the entrance with the proposed ramp will add an additional financial burden and suggested covering the ramp with a canopy.
- The plan for the accessible entrance is to be placed where the current bar is located which creates significant dislocation for the bar and reduced gallery space. It will be necessary to move the bar to the end of the hallway and will require unbudgeted expense to create the new bar area and request financial support to do this move.
- The new entrance will be isolated from staff offices and sight lines and will require a security camera to allow staff to monitor the entrance and exit and request that this feature be included in the final plans.

Mayor Norman enquired if these changes and requests would require any changes to their leases. Chris McNeill, CAO, stated no but the increase in snow removal, depending on conditions, may increase the cost to \$20,000 - \$30,000, i.e. callouts for extra people to do the clearing.

Councillor Fancy stated he feels the new ramp would need to be covered as there would be an issue with black ice. If the ramp is covered, there wouldn't be as much of an issue with snow removal.

Deputy Mayor Muise stated he did not feel that a roof would stop the snow or ice conditions and possibly make it worse, and suggested having the new ramp installed inside the building.

Mayor Norman enquired if it would be permitted to have the ramp fully enclosed. Mike MacLeod, Director of Planning & Development, stated he would make contact with the Province for clarification and confirmation. The exterior ramp cost would be approximately \$50,000 - \$60,000. An enclosed ramp would be at least three times the cost.

Councillor Charlton stated she is in favour of an outside ramp if there were no safety concerns from the Accessibility Committee about it being covered.

Mayor Norman stated the ongoing maintenance will become the responsibility of RQM and would need to ensure that the ramp was cleared.

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

THAT Council of Region of Queens Municipality forward the matter regarding Town Hall Arts & Cultural Centre – Accessibility Renovations to the next regularly held Council meeting, scheduled for July 12, for further discussion.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

7.2 Pool Committee

Deputy Mayor Muise stated members from the Queens County Aquatic Society has attended the last few Council meetings enquiring on a pool committee and have asked to be part of the committee and offered their assistance. To date we have not provided them with an answer.

Councillor Brown enquired if there has been any confirmation from the donor on how the money could be utilized. Mayor Norman stated that nothing has been received to date.

Councillor Fancy stated that what needs to be determined if we want a committee and if there is a need for new pool. The Aquatic Society has enquired several times where things stand on this issue. He suggested the need for public input.

Councillors Amirault, Charlton and Gidney stated they feel the need for a pool committee and to start discussions.

Deputy Mayor Muise took the Chair at 7:20 p.m.

Mayor Norman stated the Aquatic Society have expressed their intent is for an indoor pool and residents of Queens cannot afford this. There is a need to replace an outside pool and at the present time staff do not have the capacity to sit on a committee. The pool is scheduled for replacement in 2024. When the time comes, all of Queens' residents will be consulted.

Mr. McNeill stated the pool information will be presented in next year's budget and is unsure the purpose of the committee. Planning would start next summer i.e. the location, costing and designs. It would be anticipated the construction would happen in 2024 with the pool opening in 2025. The process would be the same as with all other projects.

He further stated there are presently 14 vacancies at RQM. It is a serious situation which may stop capital projects or delay projects.

Councillor Fancy offered his opinion that there are a lot of assumptions being made and as a Council, would like to see a committee. They offer great information and would like to move forward with the project. They stated there are a number of volunteers willing to fundraise and is really disappointed on how things have been handled.

Councillor Charlton suggested investigating looking at the project on a smaller scale to start in late fall and meet quarterly.

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

THAT Council of Region of Queens Municipality defer the matter regarding decision on rules from the donor and bring information back at a future Council meeting for further discussion.

MOTION DEFEATED with 4 in favour and 4 against.

Mayor Norman resumed the Chair.

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

THAT Council of Region of Queens Municipality refer the matter to the next regularly held Council meeting, scheduled for July 12, for further discussion.

MOTION CARRIED with 5 in favour and 3 against.

8.0 In-Camera Items

It was moved by Councillor Amirault and seconded by Councillor Gidney that the proceedings go In-Camera at 7:45 p.m. to discuss the following:

- 8.1 Acquisition of Municipal Property**
- 8.2 Potential Litigation**

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Mayor Norman announced a 5 minute break at 7:45 p.m.

It was moved by Councillor Charlton and seconded by Councillor Gidney that the proceedings exit In-Camera at 8:40 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

9.0 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.



Mayor Darlene Norman, Chair



Eric Levy, Municipal Clerk



Christine Watson, Administrative Assistant – Planning & Development

Date Approved: 
