

**Region of Queens Municipality Regular Council
Tuesday, September 27, 2022, 6:00 p.m.**

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
Eric Levy, Municipal Clerk
Christine Watson, Admin. Assistant – Planning & Development

1.0 Call to Order

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

Mayor Norman announced Friday is Truth and Reconciliation Day and Saturday is Treaty Day. Gatherings are being held at Hank Snow Grounds and encouraged everyone to attend.

A minute of silence was held in recognition of the children who did not make it home from residential schools and residential school survivors.

2.0 Changes / Approval of Agenda

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

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

3.0 Presentations

There were no presentations to come before this meeting.

4.0 Tabling of Petitions

There were no petitions to come before this meeting.

5.0 Public Question / Comment Session

There were no public questions for comments to come before this meeting.

6.0 Approval of Minutes

6.1 Regular Council – September 13, 2022

Mayor Norman noted the vote was corrected to 7 in favour and 1 abstention under Item 7.6 of the minutes.

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

**THAT the minutes of the Regular Council meeting held
September 13, 2022 be approved as amended.**

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

7.0 Recommendations

7.1 Policy 95 – Maintenance of Trees

**It was moved by Councillor Gidney and seconded by Councillor
Hawkes:**

**THAT Council of Region of Queens Municipality approve Policy
95 Maintenance of Trees.**

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

7.2 Cost Sharing of J-Class Roads – 2023-2024 Fiscal year

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

THAT Council of Region of Queens Municipality submit the following J-Class roads to Nova Scotia Public Works for consideration of cost sharing in 2023-2024:

- College Street from Shore Road to Pleasant Avenue
- Roxbury Road
- Oliver Street, and
- Fostertown Road.

AND THAT the roads be submitted in the following priority order:

1. College Street from Shore Road to Pleasant Avenue
2. Roxbury Road
3. Oliver Street, and
4. Fostertown Road.

Councillor Charlton agrees with the priority order and stated she drove the roads in her area, which were all in bad shape. She feels having a policy in place to score the roads would be good in order to give priority to road repairs.

Deputy Mayor Muise took the Chair at 6:08 p.m.

Mayor Norman stated she is against the motion, but priority of the roads is correct, but does not believe in the cost sharing of provincial roads and should be investing in streets we own.

Councillor Charlton enquired about the service exchange agreement and stated until the province changes the agreement, these roads will not get done. The residents deserve better roads and unless we are willing to cost share, does not think it will happen, which is a concern.

MOTION CARRIED with 6 in favour and 2 against.

Mayor Norman resumed the Chair.

8.0 Discussions

8.1 2024 Municipal Electoral Boundary Public Consultation

Mayor Norman stated included in the agenda package is information from the online survey, as well as minutes from the public sessions. A part of the mandatory electoral review is to consult with the public on their views. She noted that the on line comments were overwhelmingly in support of 6 councillors.

Councillor Brown noted the survey defaulted to the 6 when asked what their favorite opinion was, even when a resident indicated 7 or 8 councillors.

Mayor Norman stated some comments indicated that Liverpool will always be favoured by having three councillors. Included was a comment of having no boundaries, to simply have everyone be elected at large for the entire county. When you consider that we are an amalgamated region, and the bulk of the population is in Brooklyn, Liverpool and Milton, to have all councillors elected at large, would make it very difficult for anyone from the North Queens area to get a seat. This would work well in towns, and it would not encourage councillors to get out and tour the entire Queens County.

The final decision will be made by the UARB.

Councillor Brown spoke in favour of having 8 councillors as it would provide an even number of councillors and give the Mayor a deciding vote, so we would have less tie votes. We want better representation for the communities and give less perceived power to Liverpool, which right now has more councillors. The 8 councillor option has three councillors with a piece of Liverpool, and five without, so it evens the balance around the county.

Deputy Mayor Muise is in favour of 7 councillors, as we have now, with a change to some of the boundaries.

Councillor Charlton is in favour of 6 or 7 councillors; with Option 1 or 2 there would still be 2 or 3 councillors in the Liverpool area.

Mayor Norman noted that reasons given for having an additional councillor was cost, but the cost of an additional councillor would be minimal, less than \$30,000 a year including travel expenses.

Chris McNeill, CAO, stated the application needs to be submitted by years' end, and noted the need of 4 – 6 weeks to prepare for submission.

Councillor Hawkes stated he is in favor of 7 councillors with some changes to the boundaries. He noted that Districts 5 and 6 are large.

Mr. McNeill stated under Option 2, if you were to take the 15% of Liverpool under District 5 from Milton, would leave Milton intact, and move it into the other Liverpool districts to make them a little bigger. This would leave two that would have major parts of Liverpool, and if this is over the +/- 10%, an argument could be made to the UARB that it makes sense to allow it to be over 10%.

Councillor Amirault agreed with Mr. McNeill's idea and is in favour.

Councillor Fancy stated he has no problem with the way the boundary is in his district and does not want to see it changed and feels it is perfect the way it is currently.

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

THAT the issue be referred to the next Council meeting for a recommendation with 2 councillors representing the Liverpool area.

MOTION CARRIED with 7 in favour and 1 against.

9.0 In-Camera Items

It was moved by Councillor Amirault and seconded by Councillor Charlton that the proceedings go In-Camera at 6:35 p.m. to discuss the following:

- 9.1 Contract Negotiations
- 9.2 Contract Negotiations

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

It was moved by Councillor Charlton and seconded by Councillor Brown that the proceedings exit In-Camera at 6:52 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

9.2 Contract Negotiations

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

THAT Council of Region of Queens Municipality agrees to enter into an agreement with Holly Murphy-Stenton and Michael Murphy with regards to the establishment of an outdoor community pool.

Mayor Norman thanked Holly Murphy-Stenton and Michael Murphy for their donation.

She further stated the terms of the agreement are confidential.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

10.0 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.



Mayor Darlene Norman, Chair



Eric Levy, Municipal Clerk



Christine Watson, Administrative Assistant – Planning & Development

Date Approved: October 11, 2022.