

TOWNSHIP OF ST. CLAIR

COUNCIL MINUTES

SESSION #7

St. Clair Township Civic Centre
April 3, 2017
6:30 p.m.

The regular semi-monthly meeting of the Council of the Corporation of the Township of St. Clair was held this evening with the following members present:

| | | |
|--------|--------------|-------------------|
| | S. Arnold | Mayor |
| | P. Gilliland | Deputy Mayor |
| | S. Miller | Councillor |
| | D. Randell | “ |
| | J. Agar | “ |
| | J. De Gurse | “ |
| | T. Kingston | “ |
| Staff: | J. Rodey | CAO |
| | J. Baranek | Clerk/ Deputy CAO |

Declaration of Conflict of Interest:

Minutes:

Regular Council Meeting – Session #6 – March 20, 2017
Finance & Administration Meeting – March 20, 2017
Public Works & Operations Meeting – March 20, 2017
Moore Museum Advisory Committee Meeting – March 1, 2017
Sombra Township Museum Board Committee Meeting – March 16, 2017

Business Arising from the Minutes:

DEPUTATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS:

6:45 p.m. – Physician Recruitment Coordinator – Carly Nienhuis
7:00 p.m. – Richard Marhue – Merlink Communications – 3536 St. Clair Parkway

CORRESPONDENCE:

- 1) LCRTC –Insurance Coverage & Sign Installation
- 2) Merlink – Lease Request
- 3) Corunna Volunteer Firefighters – Field Day Request
- 4) Vegetable Stand Request – Ben Arnold

INFORMATION:

- a) BeyondAir – Opposition to Merlink lease proposal
- b) Van Damme Expansion Opposition Letters
- c) County of Lambton – Road Closure Notice
- d) Lafarge Gravel Dock Concerns
- e) Connect to Innovate Program – Application Request

DRAINS:

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND OFFICERS:

COORDINATOR OF ENGINEERING'S REPORTS:

- 2017 Urban Asphalt Resurfacing Recommendation
- Roadside Ditch Enclosures – Hill Street and Guthrie Park
- GPS Data Collection and Surveying Unit – Request for Quote
- Rehabilitation of Bear Creek Bridge at Moore Line – Request for Proposal

TREASURER'S REPORT:

- Final Approval Request for 2017 Budget

DEPUTY CLERK'S REPORT:

- Dedication of Property as Part of Public Road – 3091 and 3093 St. Clair Parkway

CAO'S REPORT:

MOTIONS:

BY-LAWS:

- 16 of 2017 – To adopt the budget for 2017
- 20 of 2017 – To dedicate Property as Part of a Public Road

COUNCILLORS' REPORTS:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- Committee of the Whole – Monday, April 10, 2017 ~ 3:00 p.m.
- Regular Council – Monday, April 17, 2017 ~ 6:30 p.m.
- Regular Council – Monday, May 1, 2017 ~ 6:30 p.m.
- Committee of the Whole – Monday, May 8, 2017 ~ 3:00 p.m.
- Regular Council – Monday, May 15, 2017 ~ 6:30 p.m.

In Camera:

- 239 (2) (a) – Property related to a potential municipal parking lot
- 239 (2) (a) – Property related to a potential park expansion
- 239 (2) (a) – Property related to a partial alley closure
- 239 (2) (b) – Personnel related to identifiable individuals

ADJOURNMENT:

At the appointed time of 6:30 p.m. Mayor Arnold welcomed those in attendance to join him in thanking past Coordinator of Operations - Gary DePooter for his years of devoted service to the Township of St. Clair. Gary began with the Township of Sombra and continued with the Township of St. Clair after amalgamation. In total, Gary served this municipality for 31 years.

Mayor Arnold presented Gary with a token of appreciation from the Township and thanked him for his service.

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest:

Mayor Arnold declared a pecuniary interest in item 4 under Correspondence and advised he will vacate the Chamber when that item is considered.

Moved by J. Agar

Seconded by D. Randell

Motion #10 That Council accept the following items of correspondence as per Council's direction:

- 1) LCRTC – Insurance Coverage & Sign Installation
- 2) Merlink – Lease Request
- 3) Corunna Volunteer Firefighters – Field Day Request
- 4) Vegetable Stand Request – Ben Arnold
- 5) Fawn Island Parking Issues – Patti Richardson

CARRIED

DEPUTATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS:

Physician Recruitment Coordinator:

At the appointed time of 6:45 p.m. Mayor Arnold welcomed Carly Neinhuis and Judy Krall to come forward to make their presentation.

The annual operating budget for the Physician Recruitment Taskforce is \$82,000 consumed mainly by the salary for the lone employee. Incentive packages paid to physicians to relocate to our Region are \$10,000, which is a lot lower than in other Regions.

Currently, the taskforce is looking for office space in which to operate as they are considering having Carly work from home. The taskforce is faced with challenging demographics as the average age of physicians in the area is aging along with the general population. In Lambton 38% of the physicians are 65 or older and as many as 15 will be retiring in the next 5 years. Current practices are of astronomical size with many having patient rosters as high as 4000 while physicians coming out of school are taught to manage rosters of between 1600-1800 patients. Thus, the region will require two physicians to replace each one upon retirement. Each municipality within Lambton County is considered "high need" by the Ministry of Health, with the exception of Sarnia.

Mayor Arnold thanked Carly and Judy for their time and advised that staff will be in contact with the taskforce if any office space becomes available.

Merlink Communications

At the appointed time of 7:00 p.m. Mayor Arnold welcomed Richard Marhue of Merlink Communications to come forward to make his presentation.

Richard advised that a public meeting was held on March 13, 2017 where 9 members of the public came to seek information. All the feedback received was positive except for a letter from Tyler Casselman on behalf of a group of unidentified land owners with concerns. Among those concerns was shadow-casting and the ability of the tower to allow for co-habitation with competitors. The tower height has been reduced from 96 to 90 feet and has been strengthened to accommodate equipment from other companies.

Since the time of the meeting, Merlink has signed 100 potential customers subject to the final approval of the site plan and a successful lease agreement. Merlink is looking for a `free of charge` lease with a term of 20 years less a day.

Mayor Arnold advised that Merlink was made aware of a Township grant application to the Connect to Innovate Program at the outset of this tower proposal. During initial consultations, the Township disclosed its desire to pursue fibre optic cable to the southern part of the municipality.

Mayor Arnold continued by advising those in attendance that the Township has met with six potential providers over the past few years who all claim to be able to provide adequate service to the area at affordable rates. There is even a tower located less than a kilometer from Sombra that was intended to resolve all connectivity issues that no longer offers reliable service. That is why the municipality took the initiative to apply for a grant

to bring fibre optic service to this part of the municipality. Lots of work has been done on the application itself as well as through lobbying efforts in Ottawa and with our local MP Marilyn Gladu.

Mayor Arnold encouraged Richard to continue to work with township staff to finalize a site plan and to submit a lease for consideration, as one has not been submitted to date. He advised that the space would not be leased at no cost and would need to be capable of housing equipment from competitive companies. He indicated leases for communication towers are generally \$1400/month.

Councillor De Gurse asked if a higher lease rate would result in increased prices for the consumers and was advised that, at a certain point, the cost to the consumer will have to increase to offset the cost of the lease.

Seeing no other questions, Mayor Arnold thanked Merlink for coming in. He encouraged them to finish the site plan and have staff bring it to Council and to also submit a proper lease for consideration.

INFORMATION:

Moved by T. Kingston

Seconded by J. De Gurse

Motion #11 That the following items of information be dealt with as per Council's instructions for items identified as agenda items a) thru f):

- a) BeyondAir – Opposition to Merlink lease proposal
- b) VanDamme Expansion Opposition Letters
- c) County of Lambton – Road Closure Notice
- d) Lafarge Gravel Dock Concerns
- e) Connect to Innovate Program – Application Request
- f) Opposition to Merlink - Phil and Evelyn Evers

CARRIED

COORDINATOR OF ENGINEERING REPORTS:

Moved by T. Kingston

Seconded by S. Miller

Motion #12 That the following reports be referred to the Committee of the Whole meeting to be held at 3:00 pm Monday April 10, 2017.

- 2017 Urban Asphalt Resurfacing Recommendation
- Roadside Ditch Enclosures – Hill Street and Guthrie Park
- GPS Data Collection and Surveying Unit – Request for Quote
- Rehabilitation of Bear Creek Bridge at Moore Line – Request for Proposal

CARRIED

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Moved by J. De Gurse

Seconded by T. Kingston

Motion #13 That the report by Charles Quenneville – Director of Finance dated March 27, 2017 be received and that the 2017 Operating Budget and Budget By-law 16 of 2017 be approved and Mayor and Clerk be authorized to sign the by-law.

CARRIED

DEPUTY CLERK'S REPORT:

Moved by S. Miller

Seconded by T. Kingston

Motion #14 That the report by Caroline DeSchutter, acting Deputy Clerk/Coordinator of Planning, dated March 29, 2017 be received and that By-law 20 of 2017, being a by-law to Dedicate Property as Part of a Public Road (Parts 1 and 2) be taken as having been read three times and finally passed, and the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to sign the said by-law accordingly.

CARRIED

BY-LAWS:

Moved by T. Kingston

Seconded by S. Miller

Motion #15 That By-Law 16 of 2017 being a by-law to adopt the budget for the 2017 calendar year receive all three readings and be thereby passed and that the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to execute appurtenant agreements.

CARRIED

Moved by T. Kingston

Seconded by S. Miller

Motion #16 That By-Law 20 of 2017 being a by-law to dedicate property as a private road in an effort to consolidate two abutting lots receive all three readings and be thereby passed and that the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to execute appurtenant agreements.

CARRIED

Mayor Arnold welcomed Frank Johnston to present a letter dated March 30, 2017 that he submitted to Mayor Arnold with regard to storm drain connection concerns at his house at 426 Broadway Street in Port Lambton – a house he bought only three years ago. The connection is causing problems and resulted in the need for Mr. Johnston to obtain a connection permit from the Township in the amount of \$1500. Mr. Johnston has asked that the Township consider waiving the fee or sharing the cost with him as occupancy was granted but the connection to the storm drain was never inspected.

Moved by S. Miller

Seconded by D. Randell

Motion #17 That the letter submitted by Frank Johnston dated March 30, 2017 be referred to staff for an investigative report before Council considers Mr. Johnston's cost sharing or cost forgiveness request.

CARRIED

COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS:

Councillor Randell

Councillor Randell advised that the new Chair for the Upper Thames Conservation Authority Source Water Committee is Dean Edwardson.

Councillor Miller

Councillor Miller advised that he attended a recent Port Lambton Hall Board meeting where it was announced that the current caretaker would like to retire so the Board is looking for a replacement. Councillor Miller also announced that Murray Jackson is the new Chair for the Police Services Board and that an increase to the budget was approved for increased office space at the Emergency Services Building in Corunna.

Councillor De Gurse

Councillor De Gurse advised that the Fair Board in Brigden is seeking information from Chief Anderson to ensure that the building is properly equipped as an emergency shelter.

Mayor Arnold

Mayor Arnold has represented the Township at a number of events since the last meeting including: the retirement party for Howie Havers; a meeting with representatives from Fawn Island related to parking concerns; a meeting related to signage to dedicate the fountain at the Civic Centre in Mooretown; a meeting with a local industry to discuss the purchase of an emergency response drone and a meeting with the leader of the Green Party.

Mayor Arnold will attend the Conservation Ontario meeting in Toronto on April 4, 2017 where emissions from greenhouses that are dangerously high in nutrients will be discussed. This could have a dramatic impact not only on Lake Erie but, also shallow

Lake St. Clair. Mayor Arnold advised staff to review emission control measures for the commercial greenhouse in the municipality.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

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- Regular Council – Monday, May 1, 2017 ~ 6:30 p.m.
- Committee of the Whole – Monday, May 8, 2017 ~ 3:00 p.m.
- Regular Council – Monday, May 15, 2017 ~ 6:30 p.m.

In Camera:

Moved by J. De Gurse

Seconded by D. Randell

Motion #18 That the meeting enter an in-camera session to discuss the following:

- 239 (2) (a) – Property related to a potential municipal parking lot
- 239 (2) (a) – Property related to a potential park expansion
- 239 (2) (a) – Property related to a partial alley closure
- 239 (2) (b) – Personnel related to identifiable individuals

CARRIED

Mayor Arnold declared the meeting back into open session and noted there was nothing to rise and report.

ADJOURNMENT:

Seeing no further business to discuss, it was thereby moved:

Moved by D. Randell

Seconded by S. Miller

Motion #19 That the meeting of Council hereby adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

MAYOR

CLERK