

## Monthly Council Meeting Minutes

November 21, 2016

### **Present**

Mayor Bill Martin  
Deputy Mayor Brent Gallant  
Councillor Frank Costa  
Councillor Gordie Whitlock  
Councillor Bruce MacDougall  
Councillor Norma McColeman  
Councillor Brian McFeely  
Councillor Greg Campbell  
Councillor Tyler Desroches  
Bob Ashley, Chief Administrative Officer  
Rob Philpott, Director of Financial Services  
Brian Hawrylak, HR Officer  
Joanne King, Communications Officer  
Members of the Media  
Members of the Public

### **Call to Order / Approval of Agenda / Conflict of Interest Declaration**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Martin

**Motion**                      It was moved by Deputy Mayor Gallant and seconded by Councillor McColeman;  
**That**                              The Agenda be approved as circulated.  
**Motion Carried**

**Conflict of Interest Declaration** – Mayor Martin and Councillor DesRoches declared a conflict of interest with item 7c on the agenda (24 Glenn Drive) no other conflicts were declared by Council members with any item on the agenda

## Approval of the Minutes

**Motion** It was moved and seconded;  
**That** The minutes of the Monthly Meeting dated October 18, 2016 and the minutes of the Special Council Meetings dated October 17, 2016, November 1, 2016, November 3, 2016 and November 9, 2016 be approved as circulated.

**Motion Carried**

## New Business

### Accolades

Councillor Whitlock thanked Mr. Maurice Casley of his recent investment and re-purposing of a building on Notre Dame Street.

Councillor DesRoches congratulated Heather Moyse on her recent induction into the World Rugby Hall of Fame.

Councillor MacDougall congratulated Diane Griffin of Stratford on her recent appointment to the Canadian Senate

Councillor McColeman congratulated Senator Catherine Callbeck (retired) on being named to the Order of Canada

Councillor McFeely congratulated Kyle Biggar on his recent recognition for his cancer research

Deputy Mayor Gallant congratulated Cassandra Noonan on the recent opening of her new business downtown and George Arsenault on receiving the Order of Canada

### Presentations:

i) Introduction of Youth Board

Councillor Whitlock introduced the youth board, representing schools from Summerside; Emma Coughlin, Declan Rockwell, Cayden Wadman, Logan Enman, Shyann Gallant, Sofia Compos, Erica Grace Sonier, Jessica Sonier, Karen Farag, Kaleigh Clow. The goal of the youth board is to provide input on how to better serve youth in Summerside.

ii) College of Piping

Roger Downie, Business Manager, representing the College of Piping (COP) made a presentation to Council.

The COP's outdoor amphitheater was condemned by structural engineers with their board and management planning for a replacement. Demolition began in September 2016. In October, a total of 2.7 million in funding was announced for building a Celtic Performing Arts Education Centre.

The Celtic Isle Campaign will be launched to raise \$800,000 in the first year with bank financing obtained as a backup on a cost to complete basis.

The Celtic Performing Arts Education Centre will be a place to improve children's lives through music, instruction and dance and to encourage and support Celtic and cultural heritage by offering instructional programs. The facility will have new instructional studios, proper back stage dressing rooms and performers change area, indoor 300 seat theatre, retractable main floor seating, a main hall for larger productions and competition space.

Benefits to the students include teamwork and student bonding, social and self-awareness, the boosting of character, confidence, and maturity.

The COP have begun planning new ways to improve self-generating income. With 3 full time employees, more human resources are needed to carry out programs and activities. Skills PEI will provide for 3 positions staggered over a period of time; assistant finance manager, manager of marketing and communications, and facility manager.

A three year strategic plan will seek to increase self generating revenue that will see many events throughout the calendar year including pub nights; festivals and ceilidhs.

The COP is seeking additional support of \$10,000 for 2017 in addition to what they have been provided this year, as well as waiving property tax.

The request will be considered by Council during budget deliberations.

iii) Ken Brown, Plant Health Atlantic made a presentation to City Council

Mr. Brown provided an overview of New Brunswick regulations. Based on a 2009 public consultation, 240 over the counter lawn care products were banned for sale to the general product. 2-4D is only available to golf courses and turf farms. Lawn care companies cannot treat more than 50% of an individual client's property in a season. Turf control can only be carried out to IPM Accredited companies when treating municipalities, sport fields, gold courses and universities.

Plant Health Atlantic was formed in 2009 for the purpose of validating those who used Integrated Pest Management activities in turf management. Its mission statement is to promote environmentally sustainable turf management programs for lawns, sport fields and gold courses.

The Plant Health Atlantic Council is incorporated, not for profit organization with a developed standard of excellence that offers credible programs through 3<sup>rd</sup> party compliance auditing. It has government approved IPM Certification and IPM Accreditation Programs.

IPM Certification and IPM Accreditation Programs is based on pest prevention, with an importance of healthy soil, and long term management. Annual independent third party audits are required with on site visitations every 3 years. It deals with education, training and professional development for at least 1 employee in each facility, there are 109 certified turf practitioners in the program.

Facilities must annually submit information based on the year's operation including total pesticide usage report, property size of all clients, staff training, marketing & client educational information.

An auditor looks for pesticide free offering, no pre-scheduled pesticide treatments, the promotion of soil improvement services. Auditing site records is used to monitor the program.

If there are complaints, spot audits are done by and independent auditor to check for compliance.

Atlantic Plant Health can modify the program within the City of Summerside bylaws.

The benefits of the program are that qualified individuals and companies manage turf pest issues and encourage pest prevention and sustainability. There is an emphasis on soil improvement and products are handled by certified professionals.

The annual fee would be about \$510 to submit and be in the program. This includes a free on site visitation every 3 years. For certified individuals, there is a \$200 fee to write the exam.

Council thanked Mr. Brown for his presentation.

#### iv) Debt Management Review

Ryan Pineau, chartered accountant from MacPherson, Roche and Smith presented the debt review management report to Council.

The firm was hired complete a comprehensive review of the City's current and expected future long-term debt position:

- The appropriateness, in terms of good financial management, of the level of debt outstanding;
- The appropriateness, in terms of good financial management, of the methods and policies employed to finance the City's capital asset and infrastructure requirements; and
- The impact on the City's level of debt outstanding as a result of the expected level of capital asset and infrastructure requirements for future years.

The primary objectives of this review are to:

- Research and identify current "best practices" with respect to financing the City's capital assets and infrastructure projects;
- Review the recently approved debt management policy framework with respect to financing the City's capital assets and infrastructure projects (the Capital Improvement Plan); and
- Provide an assessment of the appropriateness of the level of the City's outstanding long-term debt, and the debt management strategies and policies currently employed to finance major capital assets and infrastructure projects.

Objectives included to review best practices:

- High-level literature review
- Generally accepted public finance principles
- Best practices for capital financing
- Review of financing strategies

- Pay-as-you-go
- Public-Private Partnerships
- Long-term financing
- Mostly covered in Capital Improvement Plan

Another objective was to review the Capital improvement plan:

- CIP implemented one year ago
- Multi-year capital budget/financing guidelines
- \$79m expenditures over 5 years, \$124m over 10 years
- CIP uses many of the best practices and generally accepted principles of public finance noted in report

Another objective was to review the appropriateness of the current debt:

Overall, the City’s current debt load, though higher than the selected comparably sized municipalities, appears to be affordable. The City has done a good job of managing its capital expenditures i.e. keeping the overall level of debt stable while continuing to address its infrastructure deficit on a timely basis. The City should closely monitor these debt affordability indicators and continue to manage the debt service cost in order to keep the debt affordable. Use of the Capital Improvement Plan to forecast capital expenditures and projected debt levels into the future should be continued to ensure that the affordability of the debt service associated with any future projects is contemplated prior to approving a project.

Absolute Limit – City of Summerside Act

- Currently below limit of 10% of taxable assessment 2014 – 70%
- Also below the self-imposed limit of 75% of the City of Summerside Act limit
  - However, trend has been increasing 2011 – 68.4%

Absolute Levels of Debt

- Decreasing
  - Total liabilities (Fig. 1)
  - Long-term debt (Fig. 3)
  - Stable- Long-term debt including short-term financing and bridge financing (Fig. 5)
- Increasing
  - Net debt
    - However-only by 2.8%, and accounting policy change in 2013 impacted
- Utility net debt increasing
  - Surpluses generated by utilities being used for general fund capital expenditures
- Utility debt metrics
  - Rank highly
    - Debt service coverage
    - Debt to operating revenue
    - Debt ratio
    - Net fixed assets to amortization
  - Trend has been improving

Municipal Comparisons

- Summerside, PE (pop. 14,751)
- Bathurst, NB (pop. 12,275)

- Swift Current, SK (pop. 15,503)

#### Appropriateness of finance methods

- Matching of loan terms to the useful life of the associated assets is an appropriate policy, as it spreads the cost of the assets over its life, and the costs is borne by those who benefit from the asset.
- The heavier overall weighting in the structure of debt toward twenty year debt as opposed to shorter terms is appropriate, given that most of the City's capital expenditures would have useful lives longer than the 20 year amortization period.
- The use of bridge financing is appropriate, as it allows City to determine the entire cost of the project before terming the financing out over the life of the project.
- The use of demand loans should be restricted as the projects these loans finance are long-term in nature, and having no required principal repayments may give the illusion that more cash flow is available for current operations than is actually available. If the principal is not repaid, it pushes the burden of repayment on future generations. It also leaves the City exposed to interest rate increases, which are generally forecast to begin in late 2016 or during 2017.
- While absolute limits on magnitude of debt that the City can incur are helpful in serving as a safeguard against excessive debt levels, the City should focus on factors of affordability when managing its debt, such as debt service cost in relation to revenue, taxable assessments or population.

#### Projected Capital Works:

Overall, while the debt could increase significantly, based on the planned capital expenditures, the assumptions don't take into account funding from other levels of government, or the potential for a "smoothing" out of the 2016 and 2017 planned capital expenditures as contemplated by some members of Council. As such, we recommend that the City continue to use its prioritization principles as outlined in the recently approved Capital Improvement Plan to proceed with needed capital expenditures in a cautious manner, always bearing in mind the affordability of any increases in terms of the debt service cost. The City has been well served to date with their restrained approach to capital expenditure and debt management.

### Mayor's Report

Mayor Martin stated that the City hosted the H&A Group from China, the semi-annual meeting of the FPEIM in the last month. He mentioned that the City is hosting the Korean delegation to Canada for the next two days. Mayor Martin made a presentation to the Rotary Club. The Mayor thanked Council for their attendance in the six Council/Committee meetings in the last month.

### Financial Services

#### Report:

Councillor Costa:

*"I have included a financial summary as part of my report. A detailed update was provided at the Committee of Council a couple of weeks ago, so I will not rehash the information. However, I do wish to highlight the following items for Council.*

*The financial results for the General Fund and the utilities continue to meet expectations, as we enter the final quarter of the fiscal year. Staff will continue to monitor operations for any significant changes in expected results, and provide options to Finance Committee and Council for consideration.*

*The City's Pension Committee met recently to receive the results of its 2015 actuarial valuation. This valuation is completed every year to give the Committee and Council an indication of how well the plan's assets are performing, based on expectations as defined in the City's pension plan investment policy. The pension plan shortfall as of the end of 2015 was confirmed as \$3.1 million, compared to \$3.3 million as of the end of 2014 (and compared to a high of \$4.2 million as recently as 2012).*

*Finally Your Worship, the City hosted another successful budget consultation with the community in late October. We were pleased with the level of engagement by attendees, and staff gathered valuable information and feedback during the exercise. We have also circulated a survey to City residents and we will be reporting on this and the results of the consultation to Council in the near future.*

*Your Worship, this concludes my report for the month of November."*

## **Economic Development**

### **Report:**

Deputy Mayor Gallant:

"Again, these past number of months have been extremely busy and promising for Summerside, hosting two international delegations, discussions with potential business looking to expand in Summerside and some local business illustrating their confidence in Summerside with their expansion opportunities.

I wanted to bring some attention to some analytical tools that our department utilizes that may be of interest to our business community as well as our own organization, and just briefly highlight them.

The first is KPMG Competitive Alternatives Study, for some this study is not very well known but provides a basis of economic intelligence to ourselves and our partners as we position and promote Summerside. Starting in 1996, KPMG's Competitive Alternatives Study has been undertaking business location cost analysis in participating cities and countries around the world, namely North America, Europe and Asia Pacific.

KPMG has recently released the 2016 edition of the Competitive Alternatives Study. This study analyses more than 130 cities with a strong focus on North America and provides statistical rankings of these cities and their relative competitiveness based on 26 locational sensitive costs within seventeen business operations. Out of the 10 countries analyzed Canada ranks second to Mexico in overall competitiveness and has on average a 14.6 percent cost advantage over the United States. Canadian City's continue to be some of the most Canada competitively positioned jurisdictions in which to do business and in general terms smaller cities generally offer cost advantages as compared to larger cities in the same country.

Of the 26 location sensitive costs analyzed, labour continues to represent the single largest cost factor and specifically within the manufacturing sector can represent between 45 to 60 per cent of total costs while non-manufacturing operations range is typically 74 to 85 percent. Canada's labour costs continue to be some of the lowest in the G7 nations representing a 32 percent advantage.

While Summerside is not specifically cited in the research given our population threshold, the Economic Development Office has utilized the metrics to undertake its comparison of the Summerside economy to understand the relative positioning in attracting and retaining business. Within the Aerospace, Agri-Food, Software Design and Green Energy, Prince Edward Island and Summerside continue to rank in the top quartiles within the region in relation to our cost competitiveness. This benchmark study is used by many site selectors and business enterprise and is utilized by the economic development department to ensure Summerside is continuing to monitor our location costs and identify areas for improvement, the positioning of Summerside in the market and articulate our true strengths. To learn more about KPMG Competitive Alternatives tool you can visit KPMG online.

The second tool that may be of some very real value has to do with the launch of the Business Development Bank of Canada's Productivity Tool

BDC Vice-President Research and Chief Economist Pierre Cleroux recently spoke at the Economic Developers Association of Canada Conference to provide practitioners with the latest economic outlook and provided specific insights into factors that contribute to small and mid-size firm growths. The key messages delivered by Mr. Cleroux to Canadian firms in terms of strategies for success that companies should be focusing on include; workforce training, devoting resources to investments in infrastructure and equipment and finding ways to increase Canadian SME's productivity as it relates to the global economy.

BDC recently launched an interactive tool that allows SME's to measure their firm's productivity and find out where one ranks compared to other Canadian businesses within their industry. The tools calculated and displays results online in minutes after completing an easy to use tool. Users will then be able to download a printable report containing results along with recommended reading on best practices.

Mr. Cleroux's concluding comments that "SME's need to ensure they measure their efficiency as this is the key to one's profitability" This benchmarking tool was designed with that purpose in mind and can be a great first step along the productivity journey. The interactive tool can be found on BDC's website and I would encourage our business to take a look at this tool to see if it could add value to their day to day operations."

## **Technical Services**

### **Report:**

Councillor MacDougall:

"The 2016 construction season has come to a close and the City would like to thank the public for their patience while the work was being done. The new car lot on Pope Road is coming together. Zoning bylaw review is still underway. Staff assisting residents with applications and permits."

**Resolution** It was moved by Councillor MacDougall and seconded by Councillor Whitlock;

**Be it resolved** that the City cost share the sewer replacement project being undertaken by ADL on Noonan Street for the City's budgeted amount of \$90,000.00.

**Resolution Carried**

Mayor Martin and Councillor DesRoches removed themselves from the meeting.

**Resolution** It was moved by Councillor MacDougall and seconded by Councillor Whitlock;  
**WHEREAS** an application was received from Mark Gallant and Brenda Arsenault for a portion of PID #917468 for a zoning amendment to Restricted Use (Service Commercial), RU(C2), zone for a Storage Facility (outdoor storage area) under the *City of Summerside Zoning Bylaw SS-15 (Revised 2007)*;  
**AND WHEREAS** zoning bylaw amendment SS-15-A130, a bylaw to amend the *City of Summerside Zoning Bylaw* was read and formally approved a first time at the Council meeting held on October 17, 2016;  
**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** zoning amendment SS-15-A130, a bylaw to amend the *City of Summerside Zoning Bylaw* be hereby read a second time.

Resolution carried

[schedule B is attached]

**ZONING AMENDMENT SS-15-A130  
A BYLAW TO AMEND THE CITY OF SUMMERSIDE ZONING BYLAW SS-15 (Revised 2007)**

The Council of the City of Summerside under authority vested in it by Section 18 and Section 19 of the *Planning Act R.S.P.E.I. 1988 Cap. P-8* hereby enacts as follows:

- I. The zoning for PID #917468 as shown on Schedule B of the *City of Summerside Zoning Bylaw (Revised 2007)*, is designated as Restricted Use, RU (C2), for the purpose of a Storage Facility (outdoor storage area).

**Resolution** It was moved by Councillor MacDougall and seconded by Councillor Whitlock;  
**WHEREAS** an application was received Mark Gallant and Brenda Arsenault for a portion of PID #917468 for a zoning amendment to Restricted Use (Service Commercial), RU(C2), zone for a Storage Facility (outdoor storage area) under the *City of Summerside Zoning Bylaw SS-15 (Revised 2007)*;  
**AND WHEREAS** zoning bylaw amendment SS-15-A130, a bylaw to amend the *City of Summerside Zoning Bylaw*, was read a second time at this Council meeting;  
**AND WHEREAS** in accordance with section 4.7 of the zoning bylaw, Council shall consider the following general criteria, as applicable:

- Conformity with all requirements of this Bylaw;
- Conformity with the Official Plan;
- Suitability of the site for the proposed development;
- Compatibility of the proposed development with surrounding land uses, including both existing and projected uses;
- Any comments from residents or other interested persons;
- Adequacy of existing water, sewer, road, storm water and electrical services, city parking, and parklands for accommodating the development, and any projected infrastructure requirements;

- Impacts from the development on pedestrian/vehicular access and safety, and on public safety generally;
- Compatibility of the development with environmental, scenic and heritage resources;
- Impacts on City finances and budgets;
- Other matters as specified in this Bylaw;
- Other matters as considered relevant.

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** zoning amendment SS-15-A130, a bylaw to amend the *City of Summerside Zoning Bylaw* as read a second time be hereby approved.

This does not bear the recommendation of the Technical Services Committee [Planning Board] meeting held on November 1, 2016.

**Discussion:**

Councillor MacDougall stated that he has talked to a number of people and he will not be supporting the motion as he believes there are other areas in the City where it could be located. He stated those that live near the property and others that do not live near the property that he has spoken to would not want an operation such as this near there their residence.

Councillor Whitlock stated that he believes that businesses should be in business areas and residences should be in residential areas and does not believe that the location is suitable. He stated that he takes the resident’s concerns seriously and sympathizes with the business owners, and would be more than happy to assist in finding a suitable location.

Councillor McFeely stated that he struggled significantly with this item and that he is not comfortable that all the criteria have been met and would not be supporting the motion.

Councillor McColeman stated that she feels that when people purchase homes in residential areas, they have made an investment, and is not able to support the motion.

Councillor Campbell stated that it should be tried to keep residential neighborhoods residential.

**Resolution Defeated**

**Resolution** It was moved by Councillor MacDougall and seconded by Councillor Whitlock;  
**WHEREAS** an application was received from Scott Mollins for PID #811513 for a zoning amendment to Restricted Use (Service Commercial), RU(C2), zone for a Parking Lot under the *City of Summerside Zoning Bylaw SS-15 (Revised 2007)*;  
**AND WHEREAS** zoning bylaw amendment SS-15-A131, a bylaw to amend the *City of Summerside Zoning Bylaw* was read and formally approved a first time at the Council meeting held on November 1, 2016;  
**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** zoning amendment SS-15-A131, a bylaw to amend the *City of Summerside Zoning Bylaw* be hereby read a second time.

**Resolution carried**

[schedule B is attached]

**ZONING AMENDMENT SS-15-A131  
A BYLAW TO AMEND THE CITY OF SUMMERSIDE ZONING BYLAW SS-15 (Revised 2007)**

The Council of the City of Summerside under authority vested in it by Section 18 and Section 19 of the *Planning Act R.S.P.E.I. 1988 Cap. P-8* hereby enacts as follows:

- II. The zoning for a portion of PID #811513 as shown on Schedule B of the *City of Summerside Zoning Bylaw (Revised 2007)*, is designated as Restricted Use, RU (C2), for the purpose of a Parking Lot.

**Resolution** It was moved by Councillor MacDougall and seconded by Councillor Whitlock;  
**WHEREAS** an application was received from Scott Mollins for PID #811513 for a zoning amendment to Restricted Use (Service Commercial), RU(C2), zone for a Parking Lot under the *City of Summerside Zoning Bylaw SS-15 (Revised 2007)*;

**AND WHEREAS** zoning bylaw amendment SS-15-A131, a bylaw to amend the *City of Summerside Zoning Bylaw*, was read a second time at this Council meeting;

**AND WHEREAS** in accordance with section 4.7 of the zoning bylaw, Council shall consider the following general criteria, as applicable:

- Conformity with all requirements of this Bylaw;
- Conformity with the Official Plan;
- Suitability of the site for the proposed development;
- Compatibility of the proposed development with surrounding land uses, including both existing and projected uses;
- Any comments from residents or other interested persons;
- Adequacy of existing water, sewer, road, storm water and electrical services, city parking, and parklands for accommodating the development, and any projected infrastructure requirements;
- Impacts from the development on pedestrian/vehicular access and safety, and on public safety generally;
- Compatibility of the development with environmental, scenic and heritage resources;
- Impacts on City finances and budgets;
- Other matters as specified in this Bylaw;
- Other matters as considered relevant.

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** zoning amendment SS-15-A131, a bylaw to amend the *City of Summerside Zoning Bylaw* as read a second time be hereby approved.

This bears the recommendation of the Technical Services Committee [Planning Board] meeting held on November 7, 2016.

**Resolution Carried**

**Discussion:**

Councillor Whitlock stated that in this case, the applicant lived in part of the house, moved out and turned the whole property into a dentistry office. While stating he will support this motion, he mentioned that the addition of the parking lot alleviates parking on the street and makes it safer. He stated that going forward he will be heavily against having commercial businesses in residential areas.

Councillor McFeely stated that the difference between this one and the previous item is that a business currently operates out of that location.

Councillor McColeman stated that she will be supporting the motion as concerns by residents appear to have been resolved.

**Resolution** It was moved by Councillor MacDougall and seconded by Councillor Whitlock;  
**WHEREAS** an application was received from Scott Mollins for PID #811513 for a zoning amendment to Restricted Use (Service Commercial), RU(C2), zone for a Parking Lot under the *City of Summerside Zoning Bylaw SS-15 (Revised 2007)*;

**AND WHEREAS** zoning bylaw amendment SS-15-A131, a bylaw to amend the *City of Summerside Zoning Bylaw (Revised 2007)*, was read and approved a second time at this Council meeting;

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** zoning bylaw amendment SS-15-A131, a bylaw to amend the *City of Summerside Zoning Bylaw (Revised 2007)* be hereby formally adopted.

**Resolution Carried**

Councillor Gordie Whitlock stated that for private snowplow operators, who put advertising signs out, there is a signage bylaw to follow and all contractors are treated the same when contacted by staff about any violation of the bylaw.

**Police/Fire& Emergency Planning**

**Police Report:**

Councillor McColeman:

**“Committee Work**

Our Police Service is involved with a number of committees, a full list which our Chief of Police can provide. These committees/groups address a number of family, social, educational, and security concerns. One program we are assisting with in conjunction with the Youth Engagement Center (S’Side Boys & Girls Club) is the “Strengthening Families” program. It is an internationally recognized, evidence-based, family prevention/ intervention program which addresses youth’s emotional, social, behavioral and academic problems, by reducing risk factors and enhancing protective factors within families. Summerside Police work hand in hand with the club, and have a member sitting on the Advisory Board for this program to assist where she can.

## Training

Media training (1 week) at the Ontario Police College, medic training for tactical troop, driver training at APA, Applied Suicide Intervention Skills training (ASIST), Emergency Communicator training for dispatchers.

## Other Noteworthy Events

Assisting with a swim meet at the CUP, 2 Aide de Camp functions, talk to 3 groups at 3 Oaks as part of Career Day, tours of SPS office, PEI Aboriginal Justice Forum training, Canadian mental health training, city golf tournament.

## Occurrence Statistics

A complete account of the month's occurrences will be made available to Councillors and the media upon request. The following is a list of last month's totals;

Traffic Accidents – **29**

Crimes Against Persons (Assaults, Threats, etc.) - **39**

Crimes Against Property (Thefts, B & E's, Mischief, etc.) – **106**

Impaired Driving Offences - **7**

Parking Tickets Issued – **134 & 23 Warnings**

## Fire Report:

*There were **23** paged calls for the months of September; the breakdown is as follows:*

**3** - Rescue Calls

**2** - Alarm Panel Calls

**4** - Cancelled Calls

**1** - Grass Fire

**2** - Structural Fires

**1** - Appliance Fire

**1** - Carbon Monoxide Call

**9** - Miscellaneous Calls

There were 19 training opportunities for the month totaling 78 hours.

Fire Prevention Week was a great opportunity for our department to play host, teacher and chef to 60 children from our Summerside schools. This lucky group of students were treated to a tour of the fire department, some firefighting lessons and the best barbequed hot dogs in the city. Thanks to the students for making it a very special week for us.

Summerside said goodbye to Engine 1 and Engine 2 after serving the city faithfully for 25 years. Replacing them are two new engines from Fort Garry Fire Trucks. The models called "Crusader Pumpers" were officially loaded and made part of the fleet on October 31.

Deputy Mayor Gallant stated that a Fireman of the Year Award will be presented this year.

### **Community Services**

#### **Report:**

Councillor DesRoches:

“The 2016 Remembrance Day ceremony held in Eastlink Arena was once again very well attended. Only a few spaces of empty seats, but could have been easily filled by those standing around the walking track.

The first of 15 minor hockey tournaments began November 18<sup>th</sup>. On the weekend of November 12<sup>th</sup> a Novice Jamboree was hosted. A Summerside team proudly took home gold!

150 trees were planted along the boardwalk on MacKenzie Drive in partnership with TD Tree Days.

Despite cold, wet weather, the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Josh Grady Glow Run/Walk received a high amount of donations to be given to the Salvation Army food bank. Approximately 40 participants braved the weather. \$300.00 & 30 bags of groceries were donated in honour of Josh.

The Parkview Seniors project is nearing completion. Painting of the facility, paving of the driveway, window installation and roof are being completed.

Credit Union Place is about to launch themed birthday parties. Parents can now leave all the planning to our Ambassadors. Parties will include, a completely decorated space in one of the 5 themes – Birthday Party, Frozen, Trendy Tween, Paw Patrol & Superheros, a themed cake, candy treat bags with a free pass for another visit, pizza, juice, and 50 minutes bowling or swimming.

5 bid submissions for national and international sporting events are currently being worked on. A bid to host the 2019 ECMA festival was submitted this month.

Staff recently participated in several workshops including EPSI’s Seniors Conference, The Seniors Secretariat workshops and Meetings & Conventions PEI workshops.

15,126 visitors have come to enjoy The Fit Stop, Fitness classes, The Walking Track, The Lanes & The Aquatics Centre in the month of October.”

#### **Lobster Festival**

CAO Ashley stated Council has previously received reports on the Lobster Festival and staff are seeking to see what type of commitment Council has for its support going forward.

He stated is the amount of investment could be reduced but maintain a quality event, there is a good reason to be optimistic. When the City took the event on, it was based on a 3 year trial. It is felt that Council supports the festival.

The length of the festival could be changed, the type of programming and who would operate the festival are all open for discussion.

Councillor Whitlock stated that he thought it was a bad idea for the city to take over the festival when it happened 3 years ago. He stated the festival has always been something that was associated with harness racing, but other things such as the parade, talent showcase and card board races are what made the carnival. He stated that perhaps partnerships could be made with community groups to assist in taking over events.

CAO Ashley stated 3 years ago, there was a sense to liven the events and offer some different programs.

JP DesRosiers stated that it is a challenge to program a week of events based on ticket sales, government funding (that is usually not confirmed until the event is over).

Councillor Costa stated he thinks that the refocus has been positive. He feels the City has to invest in it to make it a signature event.

Councillor DesRoches stated that he likes certain aspects of the festival, it is a lot cleaner. He remembers growing up looking forward to the Lobster Festival, but doesn't see the crowds that the event used to attract.

Councillor McFeely stated he supports the idea of a festival, but over time it should be turned back over to the community.

Councillor MacDougall stated that it is important for the community to get behind the event and support it.

Councillor DesRoches stated that the harness racing dates can't change because of other racing events taking place in the Maritimes.

Mayor Martin is in support in keeping the event and stated that there is a long history and it may be a good idea to tie community grants to organizations looking to take the event on.

CAO Ashley stated that if the City has the objective of turning the event back to the community, this could be a transition year to work toward that goal.

<i>HR/Legal</i>	<i>Affairs/</i>	<i>Culture</i>
<i>Summerside/GPS Report</i>		

#### **Human Resources Report:**

- We currently have a job competition ongoing for an Apprentice Power Line Technician
- The Department provided Council support this month at Committee & Council meetings
- The Annual Flu Shot program wrapped up this month.

- The smoking cessation program “Quit and Win” is ongoing this month. City staff are partnering with the Canadian Cancer Society in a peer support program that helps people quit smoking.
- As part of our Fit for Fall healthy living programming City staff are participating in a 21 day challenge in November dubbed “Dreamember” where the goal is to have at least 7 hours of sleep per night. This is the second of three challenges in the Fit for Fall program.
- The HR department won the annual Halloween costume contest
- The Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee continue to meet on a regular monthly basis as well as department sub-committees

### **Culture Summerside Report:**

Wyatt Heritage Properties Inc. has received notice of a successful Canada 150 Fund Application and has been allocated \$60,000.00 towards a project called My Canada – My Place: Projections in Nation Building. This project highlights the achievements of the working class in the building of Canada and will host visits from past characters and create opportunities for dialogue on the future of Canada and lessons learned. This is a 2017 project.

Culture Summerside has received \$15,000.00 in funding from the Building Communities through Arts and Heritage Program, Anniversaries Component to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Wyatt Historic House and the Lefurgey Cultural Centre which were both constructed in 1867.

The Culture Summerside Christmas program for schools has had a successful registration to date with over 600 students already registered for the December program.

The Year the Great War Came to Summerside project is coming to completion. The Water Street exhibit has been removed and over 490 of the 500 men of C Company have been tracked down and documented by project leader Jean MacKay and several dedicated volunteers. The Three Oaks Senior School Drama Class participated in the creation of two audio dramas on the topic of C Company and delivered them to the school of approximately 800 students as part of school remembrance day program. Finally, a one minute audio vignette was created in remembrance of C Company and played on radio during the week of Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>.

Culture Summerside 16<sup>th</sup> annual Wyatt Heritage Properties Ghost Walk set a new high in attendance. Over 240 people participated. 2017 will see an expanded schedule to accommodate those 50 that were turned away in 2016. Twenty four students from Three Oaks Senior High School, PEI History Course participated and did a formal review of the 10 vignettes. During November they are visiting the History Centre for guidance, information and inspiration as they write their community and family’s histories.

The MacNaught History Centre and Archives conducted a familiarization visit to the Seniors College class on how to *Tell Your Story – Write Your Memoir*. Participants learned about using the history centre’s resources in researching and fact checking. Fred Horne will present a talk on the Silver Black Fox Industry for a Seniors College course this month.

## **Governance, Policy and Strategy Report:**

### **Logistics and Budget re: Cosmetic Pesticides**

The bulk of the bylaw development work is done. If Council decides to formalize the bylaw, implementation steps must follow. Therefore, GSP will look at questions concerning public communications and education, permitting, reporting and enforcement.

We remain on track to have the bylaw in place by March 31, 2017.

### **Collections Policy**

GPS can report that work on the collections policy and procedures is wrapped up and now operational in our billing systems. We're confident that the City is much better prepared to significantly reduce the number and amount of outstanding, past-due utility accounts.

### **Dangerous, Hazardous, and Unsightly Premises**

GPS work on the problem of long-grass complaints has resulted in the bylaw amendment recently passed by Council. This amendment extended the time period in which the City can take corrective action on these complaints from 12 months to 48 months. This measure should reduce the incidence of chronic, repeat offenses from the same properties, year after year.

### **Community Grants and Facility Fees Policy Review**

This policy work will move into a review of examples of other grant policies from across the country. We will look for ideas which fit Summerside's community grants environment. The review is not straightforward because it involves seeking a fair and equitable balance between the availability of scarce City resources and the expanding needs of organizations struggling to remain viable.

The recent public consultation on the City's overall budget reveals citizens' recognition of the challenge. The majority of survey respondents—more than 75%-- supported either maintaining or reducing the amount of tax dollars allocated to Community Grants.

### **Open Fires, Burning Bylaw**

We will be looking at examples of open fire or backyard burning bylaws. We've widened the scan to include some international examples, for example from New Zealand, the United States, and the U.K., not just Canada. We expect to find common patterns which could be applicable in our City. We can confirm that in Canada, at least, burning bylaws are quite commonly adopted by a large number of urban municipalities.

## ***Municipal Services***

### **Report:**

Councillor Whitlock:

"Plant effluent for the month of October was within regulated requirements for the month. The plant treated 215,637 cubic meters (47,440,140 gallons) of raw sewage while producing 302 tons of Exceptional Quality fertilizer from its waste sludge processing and processed 167,408 gallons of primary sewage from the surrounding

area. Staff connected and tested a new way to dry sludges at the plant using a centrifuge instead of our Fournier presses to see if savings could be achieved in operations.

The City's sewer collection efforts focused on service to 12 residents in distress and repaired one manhole.

Back water valve maintenance is due. All customers of the sewer utility are reminded to have their back water valve checked for proper operation this time of year. The wet fall and upcoming wet spring sometime causes sewer laterals to become plugged. A back water valve prevents the sewage from entering your home or business. Always call the city first to investigate your malfunctioning sewer system and never open your clean out on your sewer lateral until the City indicates the main lines are clear. Staff removed one huge root ball estimated at 300 pounds from a sewer manhole this month

The City's water utility efforts continued their focus on service to read all water meters, performed 10 shut off and turn-ons, tested and maintain chlorine levels for safe drinking water 15 times throughout the month with all systems operating normally.

The Water Utility is continually upgrading water lines every year throughout the City and invests approximately \$1,000,000 dollars annual on new infrastructure to keep services maintained that are reliable and safe with marginal water service interruptions. For the month of October the water utility pumped almost 4,000,000 gallons of water for use in the community and ensures there is adequate water on hand in our water towers for the fire services to fight fires. The water utility keeps millions of gallons of water at the ready in case a major fire breaks out in the City.

The City's public works efforts concentrated on getting all snow removal and salting equipment ready for the season and finishing up work to infrastructure before frost sets in.

The City of Summerside invests approximately \$500,000 dollars annually in new equipment to plow snow, salt roads, and perform maintenance on city transportation infrastructure and traffic controls. This section of the city makes sure the community is clean of debris, road kill and the roadways and signage are in their best possible condition."

Councillor Whitlock stated that he asked to have sidewalk criteria on the agenda, and would like to see criteria the placing of new sidewalks that would include areas that have multi-unit buildings, areas where safety is a concern, as well as criteria oh how sidewalks are replaced are repaired.

### ***Electric Services***

#### **Report:**

Councillor Campbell:

"After a long year of finding maintenance issue after maintenance issue in the generating plant the power plant had its first full operational test run this month with all engines working smoothly and effectively. The engines are fully ready to enter into the winter storm season and high electricity demands to operate at a moment's notice to provide critical backup for the community.

Wind power production was higher in October than in September with 45% of our power this month coming from renewable wind energy.

The LED street lighting program is being continued along Granville Street with all the lights on Granville Street from Water Street to Route 2 being replaced with Huego Electric's product. The community will see a better lighting system at 50% of the energy use. If you would like your street upgraded call us at 902-432-1268 to be put on the list for upgrades.

The City's Electric Utility had 3 service upgrades and 6 new customers this month. The Utility continues to upgrade its street lights this month seeing 35 street lights changed to LED type. Development extension work was completed for Gamble Street Extension, MacKenzie Drive Apartments, Pope Road Apartments, and the new Nissan Dealership. Andrew Peters and Brody Cahill passed their 4<sup>th</sup> block of apprenticeship on their way to becoming fully red seal certified PowerLine Technicians.

The pole replacement program is coming to a close this year with 163 poles being replaced and the poles yet to be removed throughout the community (the old poles) shall be removed before spring arrives."

### ***Committee of the Whole***

**Motion** It was moved by Councillor and seconded;  
**That** That we move into Committee of the Whole after a brief Recess.  
**Motion Carried**

### ***Open Session Resumed***

#### **Report:**

Moved by Councillor MacDougall and seconded by Councillor Whitlock  
That The City of Summerside approve the moving the approval of the new Municipal Government Act to the spring/summer session Legislative session  
Resolution carried 5-3 (Councillors McColeman, Campbell and Deputy Mayor Gallant voted against)

### ***Adjournment***

**Motion** It was moved and seconded;  
**That** The meeting be adjourned.  
**Motion Carried**

Bill Martin  
Mayor

Brian Hawrylak  
HR Officer