



Arcadia

Council Meeting Minutes

Location: Cumberland Bay Fire Hall, Cumberland Bay

Date: Tuesday, February 18, 2025 – Regular Meeting of Council

Time: 7:00 pm

1) Call to Order

Mayor Pleadwell called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. In attendance were Mayor Pleadwell, Deputy Mayor Sharpe, Councillor Black, Councillor Gordon, Councillor Thomson, Councillor Mennier, and Clerk McGarity. Regrets from Councillor Gahan-MaGee and CAO Gilman.

2) Approval of Agenda

It was moved by Councillor Mennier and seconded by Councillor Black to approve the agenda as presented.

With all in favour, the motion was carried.

Mayor Pleadwell invited Council to declare any conflicts of interest with respect to the agenda. No conflicts were declared.

3) Presentation – The Village Gardeners

Ashleigh Sutherland presented on behalf of The Village Gardeners.

- Through planting, watering, budget management, perennial bed care, container design and installation, fundraising, overwintering, stakeholder communication, and 2025 planning, the Village Gardeners are committed to nurturing and enhancing our communities' green spaces.
- Request for \$2,000 grant to assist with the 2025 growing season.
- The Village Gardeners are actively recruiting and welcome all new volunteers that would like to join.
- Opportunity in 2026 to apply and be part of Communities in Bloom.
- Opportunities to work with local schools and 4H programs.

4) Staff Reports

Clerk McGarity gave the monthly staff report that was submitted by CAO Gilman.

- Solid Waste – after working with contractor and additional communication, complaints reported to the office have decreased significantly. We encourage all residents who do have a complaint to contact the office
- Arcadia will be submitting an application for funding under Aviva's Charge for Change program to install EV charging stations. The funding covers 100% of the cost. There is a user fee charged to the individuals that cover the cost of the electricity used. Insurance for the charging units will be investigated.

- Website update: process is underway. We are currently working on the content creation and adding as much information as possible for residents to be able to access. In the coming months, we will be reaching out to community members for input, including content for a business directory, community groups directory, and community events.
- Voyent Alert currently has 136 participants registered, increasing daily. Voyent Alert was launched on January 27, 2025.

5) Approval of the Minutes

a) Regular Council Meeting – January 20, 2025

It was moved by Councillor Mennier and seconded by Councillor Black to approve the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting on January 20, 2025.

With all in favour, the motion was carried.

6) Business Arising from The Minutes

a) Complaint regarding trail initiative

- Waiting for new use agreement – ongoing

b) Arcadia Office Location

- Will be discussed in the Building & Properties Committee report

7) Council Committee Reports

Public Safety Committee

- Councillor Gordon noted her report is included in council packet.
- Any suspicious activity needs to be reported to the RCMP.
- Councillor Gordon, Councillor Thomson, and Alexis Trebble have a meeting on February 24th with the fire chiefs and EMO representatives to discuss the emergency plan.
- Councillor Gordon attended the Capital Region Service Commission Public Safety Forum
- Encourage residents to sign up for Voyent Alert! notifications

Finance Committee

- Auditors have been working with the office
- Quickbooks conversion to online has completed

It was moved by Councillor Black and seconded by Councillor Gordon to accept the expenditures for Arcadia General from January 21, 2025 to February 17, 2025, in the amount of \$570,059.54.

With all in favour, the motion was carried.

It was moved by Councillor Black and seconded by Deputy Mayor Sharpe to accept the expenditures for Arcadia Sewer from January 21, 2025 to February 17, 2025, in the amount of \$1,612.01.

With all in favour, the motion was carried.

Economic Expansion Committee

- An Agriculture and Woodlot owners breakfast conference will be scheduled in late April, with date and agenda to be determined.

- Discussion with Fredericton Tourism and Two Rivers Rowing Club on a regatta to be potentially held in Gagetown on June 14th. Details are still being worked out, with a target date for an official announcement in March.
- Trails Coalition will be meeting in March to discuss next steps

By-laws Committee

- Committee currently working on multiple proposed by-laws including an updated sewage by-law, unsightly premises, and there are a number of by-laws in Ward 2 Gagetown that are no longer relevant that we will be looking to repeal in a future meeting.

Buildings and Properties Committee

- 8 firms were invited to submit proposals to conduct a feasibility study for an extension to either the Jemseg Fire Hall or a new build to provide office space. 2 firms have submitted proposals which were reviewed by the committee on February 6th. Both firms were requested to clarify a number of points and get back to the committee, at which the committee will provide an update to Council
- No funding has been allocated, and no funds have been spent

Public Works Committee

- Has provide some feedback to the By-laws Committee regarding the Sewage By-Law. There will be more to come

Medical Services Committee

- Committee met with a medical practitioner who is looking to get credentials in New Brunswick
- Committee met with Horizon officials for a tour through the clinic in Gagetown

8) Correspondence

No items were discussed

9) New Business

a) Cambridge-Narrows Library Letter of Support

The library has the opportunity to apply for a grant and they have requested a letter of support from Arcadia Council. Their project is "Our Visual History" where they would like to help community and visitors alike to better understand the Municipality of Arcadia and its history.

It was moved by Councillor Black and seconded by Councillor Mennier that the office provide the letter of support to the Cambridge-Narrows Library.

With all in favour, the motion was carried.

b) Second Reading by Title Only – By-law #8 CAO By-law

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Sharpe and seconded by Councillor Mennier that the second reading by title only be given to By-law #8 "A By-law Respecting the Duties and Powers of the Chief Administrative Officer of Arcadia".

With all in favour, the motion was carried.

c) Third Reading by Title Only & Enactment – By-law #8 CAO By-law

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Sharpe and seconded by Councillor Mennier that the third reading by title only and enactment be given to By-law #8 "A By-law Respecting the Duties and Powers of the Chief Administrative Officer of Arcadia".

With all in favour, the motion was carried.

10) Open Floor – Comments from the Public

- Chargers for Change – make sure to contact insurance and have someone review lease agreement/contract to make sure municipality is not held responsible for any damages
- Municipal tax rate – rate will not change for this year. The rate has stayed the same in Gagetown but the assessments have increased. The assessment system is clearly broken. The municipality should offer relief to its residents. Understand needing a new building for an office, but it makes it difficult when residents are having a difficult time paying bills
- Guardrail – residents living on corner in Cumberland Bay would like to have guardrail installed for safety of drivers
- The need for Fiscal Reform is forefront with the Provincial government. Make sure to appeal property tax assessment if you have questions.
- Building house in Gagetown to move into in future. Rate is higher due to not being primary residence. The tax rate in Gagetown is the highest rate in Arcadia. If we are one Arcadia, we should all have similar tax rates. There is nothing in Gagetown that warrants this high tax rate. Would appreciate if the tax rate was looked at and brought into line with all the wards of Arcadia.
- Budget for Recycling: 2024 was \$57,000, 2025 is \$0. Why is there no amount budgeted?
 - The recycling is now part of a provincial program, so the cost is not paid by municipalities.
- Tax Rate: What portion of the tax rate goes to DTI, Ambulance NB, etc
- Local reform is necessary because there is not enough money in the pot, and there is only 1 stream of income for municipalities
- Town Halls are difficult when residents continue to discuss the same topic and questions. Can we move on to other questions and quicken the pace?
 - Town Halls are an opportunity for residents to voice their questions and concerns
- How long are the growing pains until we become Arcadia? Need to increase the mentality of Arcadia as a whole and become one community

11) Upcoming Meetings

- March 17, 2025 – Jemseg Fire Hall
- April 22, 2025 – Upper Gagetown Fire Hall

12) Closed Session

Items discussed in closed session were as per Section 68(1)(f) of the Local Governance Act.

It was moved by Councillor Black and seconded by Councillor Gordon to move to closed session at 9:03pm.

With all in favour, the motion was carried.

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Sharpe and seconded by Councillor Gordon to move out of closed session at 10:23 pm.

With all in favour, the motion was carried.

13) Motion to Adjourn

It was moved by Councillor Black and seconded by Councillor Mennier to adjourn at 10:24 pm.

With all in favour, the motion was carried.


Acting Mayor Steven Sharpe


Clerk Jessica McGarity

