

Arcadia

Council Meeting Minutes

Location: Gagetown Recreation Centre, Gagetown

Date: Monday, January 20, 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 Gahan-MaGee, Councillor Gordon, Councillor Thomson, Councillor Mennier, CAO Gilman, and Clerk McGarity.

2) Approval of Agenda

Mayor Pleadwell moved two items of New Business to Closed Session based on Section 68(1) of the Local Governance Act.

It was moved by Councillor Mennier and seconded by Councillor Gordon to approve the agenda with changes to closed session.

With all in favour, the motion was carried.

3) Presentation – The New Brunswick Medical Education Foundation Inc

Alyssa Long and David Ryan presented on behalf of the New Brunswick Medical Education Foundation Inc.

The New Brunswick Medical Education Foundation is a private, registered charity in New Brunswick that works to increase access to healthcare primary care by recruiting and retaining our next generation of physicians. Their model is to raise funds as a charity to support student scholarships to fund current New Brunswick medical students to create a pipeline of future physicians committed to New Brunswick.

4) Presentation – Gagetown Chamber of Commerce

Anita Elste presented on behalf of the Gagetown Chamber of Commerce.

An update of Chamber activities over the past year includes the launch of a website in September 2024 and launch of a heavy social media campaign to promote what is available in Gagetown.

Chamber has invited a member of Council to regularly attend Chamber meetings. Councillor Mennier will attend meetings on behalf of Council.

The Beautification Committee that installed and maintained planter boxes on Front Street with a group of volunteers has announced that the Gardening Club has opted to split from the beautification committee. The Gardening Club is a committee interest group of gardeners that no longer have ties with Chamber.

The Chamber would like to make sure that they are applying for funds properly to make sure that all funds are shared fairly.

Any funding requests can be submitted to the office and will be discussed at council meetings.

5) Staff Reports

CAO Gilman gave his monthly report, which is included in the council packet.

CAO Gilman brought to Councils attention the following items:

- A new lease agreement has been signed with Dr. Stackhouse for the Cambridge-Narrows Medical Clinic
- Interim audit has been completed with new auditors. The final audit for 2024 will begin the first week of February
- Former Solid Waste contractor for Hampstead and Upper Gagetown has sent a letter to the Premier
- Voyent Alert will be launched Monday January 27th for Arcadia. Alerts can be received by email, voice, or text message. Registration information will be available on our website, Facebook, Jemseg Lions Club Newsletter, or by contacting the office for assistance.

6) Approval of the Minutes

a) Regular Council Meeting – December 16, 2024

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Sharpe and seconded by Councillor Mennier to approve the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting on December 16, 2024.

With all in favour, the motion was carried.

b) Special Council Meeting December 30, 2024

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Sharpe and seconded by Councillor Mennier to approve the minutes from the Special Council Meeting on December 30, 2024.

With all in favour, the motion was carried.

7) Business Arising from The Minutes

a) Complaint regarding trail initiative

- Waiting for new use agreement – ongoing

b) Unsightly Premises Complaint - Gagetown

- Mayor Pleadwell tabled item and moved discussion to closed session.

c) CAO By-Law

- Mayor Pleadwell read the proposed By-law #8 “A By-law Respecting the Duties and Powers of the Chief Administrative Officer of Arcadia” by title and in its entirety.

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Sharpe and seconded by Councillor Gordon that the first reading by title and in its entirety 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.

d) Arcadia Office Location

- A request for proposal has been sent to eight companies for a feasibility study based on the requirements that were approved at a previous council meeting. We have received two proposals that have been given to the Building and Properties Committee for discussion.

8) Council Committee Reports
Finance Committee

It was moved by Councillor Black and seconded by Councillor Mennier to accept the expenditures for Arcadia General from December 17, 2024 to January 17, 2025, in the amount of \$429,256.10.
With all in favour, the motion was carried.

It was moved by Councillor Black and seconded by Councillor Mennier to accept the expenditures for Arcadia Sewer from December 17, 2024 to January 17, 2025, in the amount of \$300.00.
With all in favour, the motion was carried.

- The office has transferred to Quickbook Online. The ward breakdown for this month's profit/loss is only showing actual expenditures, but not showing budget.

Economic Expansion Committee

- Councillor Mennier noted his report is included in council packet
- Arcadia has been selected to participate in two Ignite MERGE program projects that ACOA is funding. The first project is to enhance recreational and tourism opportunities at Hart's Lake. The second project is in collaboration with Hanwell, to ensure sustainable water access for community growth.

It was moved by Councillor Mennier and seconded by Councillor Black that Arcadia provide a one-time grant of \$1,000 to a citizens' group to create an Arcadia Trails Coalition to be incorporated as a charitable organization.

Questions:

- *This would be for all of Arcadia.*
- *There is a process for granting road access to snowmobile and ATV activity.*

With all in favour, the motion was carried.

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 and Councillor Thomson met to discuss the emergency plan. Next step is to discuss with fire departments.
- Cambridge-Narrows Fire Department Request – Deflectors on top of man door at old fire hall where snow/ice falls from the roof.
- Mayor Pleadwell made everyone aware of Active Missing Person in area.

Communication Committee

- Committee met on January 7th to discuss progress of new website, Facebook account, and purchase of additional Arcadia swag.
- Banners/posters will be purchased to promote Arcadia and Voyent Alert
- Option to have a name-the-firetruck contest has been extended to Cambridge-Narrows Fire Department.

Buildings and Properties Committee

- Two proposals have been received for the feasibility study and the committee will be reviewing them
- Outstanding project that we are working on is the review of the wharves
- Deputy Mayor Sharpe and CAO Gilman toured the Cambridge-Narrows Municipal Building to view and point out some areas that need attention
- The door for the second Fire Hall in Cambridge-Narrows also needs attention

By-laws Committee

- CAO By-law received its first reading tonight
- There are 4 proposed by-laws with the office waiting to be put in the proper form and format to be reviewed again by the committee prior to coming to Council.

Medical Services Committee

- Presentation tonight by The New Brunswick Medical Education Foundation Inc
- Mayor Pleadwell has had the opportunity to participate in interviews around healthcare and Arcadia to draw attention on the recruitment front within Arcadia.
- Mayor Pleadwell and CAO Gilman will be doing a tour of the Gagetown Medical Clinic this week to do inventory of items available.

Public Works Committee

- Committee met to discuss concerns with solid waste contract
- Concerns with state of equipment in lagoon in Gagetown and results of testing of levels being reported. Committee will discuss current state and next steps forward.
 - Question: With potential issues being identified, was there funds budgeted for these items? No funds were set aside. Any funding would be from federal and provincial programs.
- Committee will discuss with experts to guide us on what to do next when it comes to current state of lagoon, future capacity, and possibilities of alternate power sources.

It was moved by Councillor Mennier and seconded by Deputy Mayor Sharpe to amend the Terms of Reference of the Public Works Committee to include Solid Waste.

With all in favour, the motion was carried.

9) Correspondence

The following items were discussed:

- Item #6 – Former Solid Waste contractor for Hampstead and Upper Gagetown has sent a letter to the Premier
- Item #3 – Letter from John Williams, MP office that Helen Henstridge has been nominated to receive the King Charles III Coronation Medal

10) New Business

a) Solid Waste

- 66 complainants have contacted office with 84 issues regarding the new solid waste.
- CAO Gilman will take responsibility for complaints pertaining to requirement to bag garbage, equipment used, and communication complaints. BMI is responsible for any complaints pertaining to not taking all bagged garbage, garbage missed, dog in truck, and rude service.

- All issues that have been brought to the attention of the office have been given to the contractor and have received confirmation within two hours.
- It was expected to have disturbances the first few pick-up dates.
- The current contract is for a one-year term. If the service is not being provided, Council has the ability within the contract to give 90 days notice to cancel service.
- Previously, there were 5 different contracts for Solid Waste pickup in Arcadia, which are now all under one contract. This allows the service to be uniform across all wards.

b) **Draft Arcadia Strategic Plan 2025-2028**

The draft Strategic Plan is a four year plan from 2025 to 2028. The principles that were decided to be important were Equitability, Fiscal Responsibility, Advocacy, Collaboration, and Respect for our Rural Lifestyle. The four strategic priorities were deemed to be Connecting Arcadia, Creating the Foundation of Arcadia, Building Arcadia, and Living in Arcadia.

It was moved by Councillor Mennier and seconded by Councillor Gahan-MaGee that we accept the Draft of the Strategic Plan for dissemination to public for comment.

With all in favour, the motion was carried.

It was decided to have an open house to discuss the Draft Strategic Plan and Voyent Alert on Tuesday February 4, 2025 and Thursday February 13, 2025. Location and time to be confirmed.

Copies of the Draft Strategic Plan will be available on our website, Gagetown and Cambridge-Narrows Post Offices, and at the office.

Comments on Draft Strategic Plan will be accepted until March 2, 2025.

c) **Active Transportation Grant Application**

Capital Project applications are now being accepted under the Active Transportation Fund until February 26, 2025

If the grant is received, maximum federal contribution is 60%, while the Committee would seek a portion of the remaining 40% from the Province of New Brunswick.

It was moved by Councillor Black and seconded by Councillor Mennier to direct staff to proceed to work with the Active Transportation Committee to apply for the Active Transportation Fund in support of moving forward with the Priority 1 portion identified in the Cambridge-Narrows Active Transportation Plan.

Question:

- *Deputy Mayor Sharpe: What was the value of the Priority 1 portion? The total cost is approximately \$883,550. Councillor Black explained that we will be applying for the full amount, with the understanding that we do not know how much will be approved. The federal grant approval is needed to have a dollar amount to further apply for provincial grants. There are multiple streams of provincial funding that can be applied for.*
- *Councillor Gahan-MaGee: The Active Transportation Project is proposed for the Cambridge-Narrows area. It has the potential to grow to all of Arcadia.*

With all in favour, the motion was carried.

d) **Ward 6 Restricted Funds**

It was motioned by Councillor Gahan-MaGee and seconded by Councillor Mennier to reserve sixty-four thousand and twenty-four dollars (\$64,024) of Arcadia Capital Reserves to be designated for Capital Projects in the ward of Waterborough.

Questions:

- *Councillor Black: If we do this for Waterborough, we need to do it for all wards. The agreement of local reform was that there were no more designated funds and that all capital reserves go to Arcadia Capital.*
- *Deputy Mayor Sharpe: This will be taking us backwards. Arcadia is one community, not six separate communities. At the end of the day, we need to work together. Should Council decide this year or next to allocate funds to a specific ward for a specific project, that would be a decision of Council to utilize whatever funds might be available for a capital project. The two previous villages, based on our fiscal reform, were able to keep whatever assets that they had as far as monetary values, but the four local service districts that make up our new community had no funds, no dollars, some had assets and some didn't. I would very strongly speak against the motion.*
- *Councillor Gahan-MaGee: The money was put there for a fire truck, which was not used that year and put into reserves. It put our ward in a bad position, causing our taxes to be raised two years in a row. Having the \$64,024 that was their money put back into projects would be something to give them back instead of taking from them steady.*
- *Councillor Gordon: Do you have any projects that you would like to have done this year that you could do rather than putting into reserves that could have a motion when those projects come up to have it put to that?*
- *Councillor Gahan-MaGee: Concern that it would be turned down, such as past motions to put money towards WI Hall.*
- *Councillor Black: There is a difference between those motions. Because those are capital reserves, you have to have a capital asset. Where we don't own those assets, they do not fall within the capital spending guidance from Local Government. You have to own the asset to make that asset more enhanced and worth more.*
- *Councillor Gahan-MaGee: The issue is that the LSD's do not own any assets.*
- *Councillor Black: Because everyone is now part of Arcadia, you can have assets, you can purchase property and build things.*
- *Mayor Pleadwell: There is potential for any specific ward and all of Arcadia to put something towards a capital asset. So if there is something in the Waterborough ward that is strongly desired, if a piece of property comes up for sale, it is our time to start looking to expand municipal presence in all of Arcadia, not just the formal villages.*
- *Councillor Gordon: Is there something that the residents of Waterborough would like to see built in their ward? This can be brought to Councillor Gahan-MaGee and then brought to Council for consideration.*
- *Councillor Gahan-MaGee: Would like to see the wharves fixed up, signage on the Grand Lake, and see something such as a splash pad.*
- *Councillor Black: These items can come to Council to be added to Capital Asset projects.*
- *Mayor Pleadwell: Capital Reserves are used with matching provincial and federal funding to make any purchases.*
- *Councillor Gahan-MaGee: Will have to discuss with residents for ideas to bring forward.*

All those in favour: Councillor Gahan-MaGee

All those against: Deputy Mayor Sharpe, Councillor Black, Councillor Gordon, Councillor Thomson, Councillor Mennier
Motion Denied.

e) Summary of Fire Services

It was motioned by Councillor Gahan-MaGee and seconded by Councillor Mennier to instruct office staff to prepare a Summary of Fire Services in Arcadia for 2024, to include but not limited to: mutual aid agreements, internal & external contracts, calls by type and geographic location, assets, liabilities, debentures, etc.

Questions:

- *Deputy Mayor Sharpe: This is included in the proposed four years Strategic Plan.*
- *Councillor Gordon: New mutual aid agreement was presented to the Chiefs at the December Capital District Firefighters Association. Treasurer Trebble attended and noted items that need to be looked into within this agreement. This will come to Council for discussion.*
- *Mayor Pleadwell: Assets, liabilities, and debentures is information that we have in the office. Calls by type and geographical location are available in FireQ.*
- *Councillor Gahan-MaGee: This information is for the Waterborough area with their fire services. There are extra charges against Waterborough paying out to other Fire Departments to do work in our area.*
- *Councillor Gordon: This motion will not do that because the office staff do not have the knowledge to rearrange fire boundaries.*
- *Mayor Pleadwell: Where this is in the Strategic Plan, we need to hear feedback from all residents and council. Council has to be deliberate in asking professionals for their expertise in these matters.*
- *Councillor Gahan-MaGee: We need services such as fire services, police protection, solid waste, but we also have to live. We need to have money at the end of the day to live.*

All those in favour: Councillor Gahan-MaGee

All those against: Deputy Mayor Sharpe, Councillor Black, Councillor Gordon, Councillor Thomson, Councillor Mennier
Motion Denied.

11) Open Floor – Comments from the Public

- Solid Waste – Trius buckets are not being dumped because the truck does not have a hoist to dump them. The employee has a hard time reaching bottom of dumpster to take out bags. Very dangerous that garbage is being picked up late at night when it is dark. Who is responsible if the dog gets out and injures somebody?
 - If garbage is not being removed from bins, contact the office because that would mean the contract is not being met.
 - Gagetown was the only ward with the lift service.
- Communication in Change of Contract – There was no communication to all residents of clear direction on how to put out your garbage.
 - An infographic will be created and sent out to all residents with clear concise directions

- Tender – Tender did not define scope of work well if the results coming back had such a large spread of costing.
- It is not all about saving money—if you are not providing the service, the money you save is not worth it.

12) Upcoming Meetings

- February 18, 2025 – Cumberland Bay Fire Department

13) Closed Session

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

It was moved by Councillor Black and seconded by Councillor Gahan-MaGee to move to closed session at 9:59pm.

With all in favour, the motion was carried.


It was moved by Councillor Black and seconded by Councillor Mennier to move out of closed session at 10:41pm.

With all in favour, the motion was carried.

14) Motion to Adjourn

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Sharpe and seconded by Councillor Black to adjourn at 10:42pm.

With all in favour, the motion was carried.



Mayor Derek Pleadwell



Clerk Jessica McGarity

