

Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 27, 2024
Town Hall

IN ATTENDANCE

Elaine Nash, Brenda Young, Ian Goudie, Doug Dean, Dave Power, Roy Lewis

REGRETS

Kevin McDonald

GUESTS

Theresa Power, Heather Marrie, Linda Dunne, Anne Marie Linehan, Bill Gambin, Eugene McDonald, Sandra McDonald, Gloria Linehan, Junior Linehan, Bertha Fowler, Hugh Lawlor, Madeline McDonald, Ted Furey, Elaine Furey.

MEETING CHAIR

Elaine Nash

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion #2024-05-27-584: Roy Lewis; Brenda Young.

To adopt the agenda for May 27, 2024.

All in favour; none opposed

Motion Carried

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Motion #2024-05-27-585: Roy Lewis; Ian Goudie

Adopt the minutes of the May 14, 2024 meeting with the following change: page 2, 3rd bullet, change the word proposed to proposal.

All in favour; none opposed

Motion Carried

4. NEW BUSINESS

a) Spiritual Centre/Wake Room

Many different positions and points of view were expressed such as the following:

- In December 2023, Council met with Eugene McDonald on several issues one such issue was the possibility of converting the clinic space to a Wake Room. Council discussed at which time the concept of a non-denominational spiritual centre was included.

- What does “spiritual”, “non-denominational”, mean. It has different meanings to different people.
- The building is a “quazi-government” building which is why we used the term non-denomination.
- The “artifacts” in question are recognized across all Christian denominations not just Catholic although they are not necessarily in that form. It does not necessarily favour Roman Catholicism. Perhaps it is better to look at them as artifacts from the community church, built and maintained by the community and donated by a member of the community. To some that is all they are and to some it has spiritual meaning and brings comfort.
- As a level of government, we are responsible for diversity, equity, and inclusion and all our space should reflect that.
- By allowing the artifacts to be hung does not make it any less diverse, equitable or inclusive. Right now, that is the only group asking to include any type of religious paraphernalia in the space. By disallowing that group we are excluding them. There should be a way to be able to incorporate all religions in the space should we be asked. We must bear in mind that the likelihood of non-Christian religions using the centre would be minimal, and will have a distinct set of rituals for end of life and interment and rules for when and where they worship. We remain open to the possibility should it arise.
- A couple of options were offered from members of the public to incorporate the artifacts to preserve and respect them without overwhelming the space and not have it appear that it is a “Roman Catholic Church”

Motion #2024-05-27-586: Ian Goudie; Brenda Young

Moved to allow the historical 14 station artifacts from Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, or any other denominational religious elements to be mounted in the spiritual centre in a general area to be covered when not required for use or requested, to give the space a non-denominational effect. This shall apply to all religious denominations.

In favour: Elaine Nash, Brenda Young, Ian Goudie, Doug Dean;

Opposed: Roy Lewis, F. David Power.

By virtue of quorum and majority in favour, motion is passed. Motion Carried.

b) Septic System Replacement – Enviro Septic

Roy Lewis presented the quote from Enviro Septic for \$23,324.22 plus HST.

Motion #2024-05-27-587: Roy Lewis; Ian Goudie

Motion to accept and sign the quote from Enviro Septic for \$23, 324.22 plus HST.
All in favour; none opposed Motion Carried

c) Cenotaph

- Council discussed moving the cenotaphs to a different location as previously discussed to enable the installation of the new septic system and to provide a safer place for visitors away from the road. It is a hazard to have it in its current location on the road.
- It was agreed that Elaine would seek quotes from Hicks, Mahers, Muirs and Nelsons to relocate the monuments. Elaine will report back at the next meeting.

d) Canada Day/June 30th

- In light of the impending relocation of the monuments, the state of the current site and the work that will be happening with the septic system it is best to cancel all town plans for Canada Day and have a dedication ceremony after the cenotaph is relocated, with a luncheon incorporating the opening of the spiritual centre and Celebrate 75 years of confederation. Everyone agreed to that plan.

e) Fire Department

Doug mentioned that the firefighting volunteers expressed the need for another bay for the trucks possibly behind the building on the grass, but we had already committed that area for the monuments. The discussion brought up the point that the existing fire hall is on a flood plain with about one foot to the water table and it would not make sense to do any more work there. It would be better to move the fire hall up on the ball field area as that is town property, of which we have very little. Furthermore, the fire hall does not meet standards without a bathroom, shower, and laundry facilities. We agreed that that should be incorporated into our emergency preparedness planning and look at a 5-year target date noting the cost is substantial.

5. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 12, 2024 at 7:00pm at the town hall.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Motion #2024-05-27-588: Roy Lewis; F. David Power.

To adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

All in favour; none opposed

Motion Carried