



Before we begin our meeting, we would like to acknowledge that Stewiacke is in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people

1. Call to Order

Mayor George Lloy called the Council Meeting to order at 7:00 pm

2. Attendance

PRESENT:

Mayor George Lloy

Deputy Mayor Roseanne Chapman

Councillors: Chad Ramsey
Susan Creelman

Suzanne Lutz
Rebecca Rogers-Laing
Pam Osborne

Staff: Dale Bogle, CAO
Leah Bennett

Erin Richard

REGRETS / ABSENT:

3. Approval of / Changes to Agenda

On the motion of Councillor Osborne and Deputy Mayor Chapman:

I so move to approve the Agenda as presented for March 23rd, 2023 – Council Meeting with deferring 9.a., 9.b., 9.d. and 9.e.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Disclosure of Interest on Agenda Items

NIL

5. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting(s)

On the motion of Deputy Mayor Chapman and Councillor Rogers-Laing:

I so move to approve the Minutes as presented for February 23rd, 2023 – Council Meeting

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. Announcements / Proclamations

NIL

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7. Presentations

a. TCPEP – Presentation David Phillips

- Thank you for support of TCPEP, excited to be working with Stewiacke
- Congrats to Councillor Osborne
- Founded in 2017 by Truro, Colchester, Stewiacke, Millbrook, the Chamber, the local business community
- Supported 250+ business, including 81 in 2021-22 alone and working with more than 20 clients today
- Helped businesses, including Asante, Kabitenyos and Seek, secure nearly \$5 million in funding
- Regional population growth on the upturn slightly (1.8%). Government seeks to double population by 2060
- The great 'retirement' now impacting productivity
- Housing crisis – labour, materials and interest rates and inflation
- Robust business starts and expansion....tempered by housing and labour challenges
- Continued family doctor deficit
- TCPEP – great reputation; growing awareness
- Tools- REN (Regional Enterprise Networks) review currently underway
- Priorities – Business Growth and Retention, Regional Business Attraction and FDI, Population Growth, Physician Recruitment, Truro Colchester Welcome Network

Councillor Osborne – How many businesses helped dollar wise?

David – Assisted Coldstream, Mastodon in past, assisting Big River Café now. We have immense potential, focused on attracting businesses to Business Park and revitalizing downtown.

Deputy Mayor Chapman – Within six months having job site ready immigrants, will this apply to Canadians as well?

David – Just a dream in the future and have no plans for unskilled labour to come here. Would like to broaden to construction to help with labour and housing crisis.

Mayor Lloy – The owner of a local business that is struggling approached us, is that something you would help with?

David – We mainly deal with the smaller businesses.

CAO Bogle – Thank you David for all your work. We have 3 graduating Nurse Practitioners who wanted to stay in the area and David looked after them.

David – Stewiacke portion is huge due to the access to the 102, building potential and growth.



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8. Written Petitions and Correspondence

NIL

9. Business

- a. Capital Budget – deferred
- b. Operating Budget – deferred

The chart below represents similar towns with their tax rate, administration staff, population, operating budget and whether or not they have an additional planner. Stewiacke has the lowest amount of administration staff, lowest budget, no additional planner and 25% growth, also, aside from Berwick, we have the lowest tax rate.

LOCATION / TAX RATE	ADMIN	POP	OP BUDGET	ADD PLANNER
Annapolis Royal 1.70	5	530	251K	YES
Middleton 1.81	5	1800	298K	YES
Shelburne 2.03	6	1700	308K	YES
Berwick 1.588	5.5	2455	338K	YES
Digby 1.86	5	2000	297K	YES
Stewiacke 1.615	4	1557	239K	NO

On the motion of Councillor Creelman and Councillor Osborne:

I so move that Council authorize staff, effective April 1st, 2023, to continue to operate expenditures with a limit of 50% of the 2022-2023 operating budget until such time as the 2023-2024 operating budget is approved.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- c. Return to Normal Business Hours – back to 9 – 4 as over a 12 week trial, only 6 people took advantage of the extended hours and 60% of those 6 were retired or stay at home residents. Councillor Osborne would like staff to stay open until 4:30 or 5:00pm one evening a week. Councillor Rogers-Laing questioned the staff working 9-4 which is only 7 hours and then lunch as well? CAO Bogle informed Councillor Rogers-Laing that the staff do not take a lunch break, they work straight through, to which Councillor Rogers-Laing questioned if that was true.

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- d. Committee Reorg – deferred
- e. Appointment to Committee Discussion – deferred
- f. WSP Change Order

This was brought forward from the CoW, this is the last phase prior to construction.

On the motion of Councillor Rogers-Laing and Councillor Ramsey:

I so move to approve the WSP Change Order as presented for the amount of \$134,527 + HST.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10. By-laws and Policies

- a. CAO By-law 2000-03

On the motion of Councillor Creelman and Deputy Mayor Chapman:

I so move that the by-law amendment to the Town of Stewiacke CAO By-law 2000-03, as presented is approved as second reading

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- b. Sewer Connection By-law 2001-10

On the motion of Councillor Creelman and Councillor Ramsey:

I so move that the by-law amendment to the Town of Stewiacke Sewer Connection By-law 2001-10, as presented, is approved as second reading

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- c. Commercial Development District Improvement By-law 2018-24

On the motion of Councillor Creelman and Councillor Rogers-Laing:

I so move that the by-law amendment to the Town of Stewiacke Commercial District Improvement By-law 2018-24, as presented, is approved as second reading

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11. Citizen Comments

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12. Mayor Report

11 Mar – Attended the Bushinkan Dojo at the Stewiacke Legion as the Dojo held a Kenshu to celebrate International Women's Day. I subsequently posted on the Mayor Facebook page, a summary of the event and photos. Todd Fleck started this Dojo in 2020 and hold classes Tuesday and Thursday pm.

13 March – Meeting and weekly briefing with Mr Bogle

13 March – Visited the Community Center in the afternoon and posted on Facebook an update of the March Break activities that are taking place with staff and volunteers.

14 March – I attended and chaired a special council meeting in which the only agenda item was In-camera – Legal

15 March – Attended a joint Library Committee meeting

20 March – Meeting and weekly briefing with Mr. Bogle

21 March – I attended a Stewiacke / NSCTN Transportation Project meeting by Zoom

Fantastic March Break activities operated by Erin, Ben and other groups in Stewiacke

Deputy Mayor Report

Met with Finance Manager regarding architects for the Library Building Committee

Attended Special Council Meeting

Attended Library Building Committee Meeting

Spoke with residents regarding various issues, including open composting

Attended South Colchester Community Health Board Meeting (unrelated to Council)

In process of Community Meals Supper on Saturday

Attended Celebration of Life for Eldon "Red" Hughes which was well attended

Attended Music and Treats at the Community Center organized by Recreation

13. Councillors Reports

Councillor Lutz – nothing

Councillor Ramsey - nothing

Councillor Osborne –

Attended memorial for Eldon "Red" Hughes

Like to thank staff who have been extremely helpful in the last couple of weeks

Responding to texts regarding potholes

Councillor Rogers-Laing - nothing



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Councillor Creelman –

In addition to the Committee meetings, attended a session yesterday with David Phillips and other members of the TCPEP discussing strategic planning

Met with Erin and a business owner to determine some things that this business can do to support the town

Also, attended the Music and Treats

14. In-Camera Session

NIL

15. Notice of Motion and Reconsideration

NIL

16. Adjournment

Adjournment called at 8:17pm.

Read and approved this 28TH day of APRIL, 2023



Mayor



CAO