

MINUTES
TOWN OF INUVIK ~ COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AND REGULAR COUNCIL MEETINGS
HELD ON JULY 13 AND 15, 2020
AT 7:00 P.M. via VIDEO CONFERENCE

Present:

Monday

Wednesday

Mayor:	Natasha Kulikowski (video conference)	Natasha Kulikowski (video conference)
Deputy Mayor:	Paul MacDonald (video conference)	Paul MacDonald (video conference)
Councillors:	Dez Loreen (video conference)	Steven Baryluk (video conference)
	Steven Baryluk (video conference)	Dez Loreen (video conference)
	Gary McBride (phone)	Gary McBride (phone)
	Alana Mero (phone)	Alana Mero (phone)
	Ray Solotki (video conference)	Ray Solotki (video conference)
	Clarence Wood (video conference)	Kurt Wainman (phone)
		Clarence Wood (video conference)

Absent: Councillor Kurt Wainman (with notice on Monday)

Staff Present: Grant Hood, Senior Administrative Officer (video conference, both meetings)
Stephanie Sutton, Council Administrator (video conference, both meetings)
Jackie Challis, Director of Tourism and Economic Development (video conference, both meetings)
Cynthia Hammond, Director of Protective Services (video conference, both meetings)
Lise Saumur, Director of Community Services (video conference, both meetings)

Others: Cst Stephanie Leduc, S/Sgt Louis Jenvenne (video conference, on Monday)

Item # 1 **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Kulikowski called both meetings to order at 7:00 p.m.

Item # 2 **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Moved by Councillor Solotki, seconded by Councillor Wood:

MOTION: 144/07/20 "THAT Inuvik Town Council hereby adopts the agenda as presented."

Motion **CARRIED**.

Item # 3 **DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST OR PECUNIARY INTEREST**

There were no declarations of conflict of interest or pecuniary interest.



Item # 4 **DELEGATIONS, PRESENTATIONS OR PETITIONS**

4.1 RCMP Report

Council noted the report. S/Sgt Jenvenne advised that he was covering detachment commander duties during S/Sgt Thom's leave. Cst Leduc mentioned that the paint the police truck event was well attended.

Mayor Kulikowski thanked members for their hard work and community involvement.

Item # 5 **PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD**

There were no questions.

Item # 6 **ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES**

6.1 Minutes of the June 24, 2020 Council Meeting

Moved by Councillor Solotki, seconded by Councillor Loreen:

MOTION: 145/07/20 "THAT Inuvik Town Council hereby adopts the minutes of the June 24, 2020 council meeting as presented."

Motion **CARRIED**.

Item # 7 **ACTION ITEMS**

7.1 Action Items List

Mayor Kulikowski advised that she had requested an update on Chief Jim Koe Park redevelopment project for the next Council meeting.

Mayor Kulikowski advised that the GNWT has confirmed that the Peggy Curtis ball & soccer field replacement project was included in the 2020 capital project list.

Councillor Solotki inquired about signage for use of lifejackets at the boat launch. SAO Hood stated that staff was still working on getting signage. Councillor Solotki requested that information be posted.



Item # 8

NEW BUSINESS

8.1

Inuvik Gateway Welcome Sign

On Wednesday, Deputy Mayor MacDonald stated that he was concerned about spending \$300,000 on a project that the Town did not have community support for and recommended that Council take time to reconsider. SAO Hood confirmed that \$200,000 was budgeted for the project and that the site preparation work was completed by local contractors. He stated that the remaining funds were set aside in a reserve in previous budgets.

Councillor Mero inquired what the outcome would be if the Town did not move ahead with the project. SAO Hood confirmed that the Town would be obliged to pay Fathom Studios as per the signed design work contract. He advised that the fabrication and installation tender closed and that bids received were over budget and being reviewed by Administration.

Director Challis confirmed that the project has been included in the capital budget every year since 2015. She noted that approximately \$100,000 has been expended on design work and site preparation to date, and that the remaining \$100,000 has been set aside for sign fabrication and installation.

Councillor Solotki stated that the sign would be a legacy project and that Council may have made a mistake in approving its design in May. She stated that since people have come forward expressing dissatisfaction, she felt allowing some extra time to hear the public's concerns should be permitted before making the decision to proceed with fabrication.

Mayor Kulikowski stated that the materials and concepts used in the proposed design were chosen for specific reasons such as preventing vandalism, durability and input received during consultations. She stated that the sign was a showstopper and something unique. She expressed that she did not wish to disregard those who participated during the consultation period and acknowledged that the Town provided many opportunities for people to come forward. She added that responding to negative comments from a vocal minority would not be the best way to move forward on a project that has been included in the capital budget for 5 years, adding that not everyone would be pleased with the decision. Councillor Solotki clarified that she had personally heard from residents about the design and was not referring to comments made on social media.

Councillor Baryluk stated that he did not agree with rewinding the process and that he felt it was a beautiful and unique sign design. He expressed that he believed that the input received during consultation was taken into consideration and incorporated into the proposed design. He also pointed out that the design image that was circulating was a draft version intended to provide a general idea of the finished project, and that it would be a mistake and waste of funds to go back.



Councillor McBride stated that several opportunities were made available for the public to come forward 9 months ago. He expressed that he also felt that the project was too far along at this point and that if Council went back on every decision, nothing would be accomplished.

Discussion followed on whether to pause to allow for more public input, and for how long. In terms of a redesign, debate continued concerning whether the Town would pay artists for new designs; the increased costs involved with starting over; what to do with the input that was received during consultation; other opportunities would be made available for artists with the Chief Jim Koe Park redesign project; and the fact that the Town has already completed a thorough advertising and public consultation process to seek input into the sign's design.

Councillor Loreen stated that recent public comments imply that the design was not in line with the input that was provided during consultation. He inquired if there was a way to reach out to local artists to seek suggestions on how the Town could have improved the process. He was in favour of allowing some extra time to reach out to the community, and to proceed with the current design if the feedback received was positive. Councillor Baryluk stated that doing this would be inviting a redesign and inquired if the Town would be paying people for their submissions.

Councillor Solotki stated that up until when Council approved the design, the process was done properly. She stated that she was in favour of allowing time to poll the public to determine if they like or dislike the design and to use that input to gauge whether or not to move forward with a project that will represent the community for many years to come. Councillor Baryluk pointed out that the Town moved forward based on the information gained during the consultation process and that a decision was already made. He stated that he did not feel that an overwhelming majority of people disliked the design. Deputy Mayor MacDonald expressed that he did not want to expend more money on something that people were unhappy with and that he wanted to see more community input before deciding to move forward with fabrication.

Moved by Deputy Mayor MacDonald, seconded by Councillor Loreen:

MOTION: 146/07/20 "THAT Inuvik Town Council hereby directs Administration to conduct a straw pole of residents on current design of the Inuvik gateway welcome sign over next 2 weeks and report back to Council so that Council can make an informed decision."

Motion **DEFEATED**.

Item # 9

BY-LAWS

There were no by-laws.



Item # 10

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

10.1

Public Services Report

Council noted the report. Councillor Wood mentioned that some newly placed blue garbage bins were blocking residents' view of the street when exiting their driveways. Director Campbell confirmed that staff would review locations and make changes if needed.

Councillor Baryluk noted the trouble reported with silt clogging in the water intake system. Director Campbell stated that due to the COVID-19 public health order, the Town has been unable to bring up divers as planned to clean out the water intake and fish screen. He mentioned that the alternate intake was being used until the main line can be cleaned.

Councillor Wood inquired if municipal vehicle repair and maintenance could be included in the annual as and when contracts that the Town puts out for bid. Director Campbell advised that it had been tendered at one time but that mechanic shops were so busy that the Town was at a disadvantage when work was required. SAO Hood noted that warranty work was also a factor.

10.2

Planning & Development Report

There were no questions, comments, or concerns.

10.3

Economic Development & Tourism Report

On Monday, it was noted that a document was prepared by staff and provided to the media to clarify and address questions and comments raised in response to recent articles about the design of the proposed gateway welcome sign. Councillor McBride stated that based on the background information provided, Administration went above and beyond in attempting to involve the community and seek input, and to make it an open process. He stated that he felt it was unfortunate that the public was coming forward now after the work has been done and mentioned that the project has been included in the Town's capital budget for the past 5 years.

Mayor Kulikowski stated that it was important for the Town to provide additional information and facts about the sign project to the public in response to negative online comments. Councillor Solotki stated that Council should look into what the process lacked in terms of community engagement and suggesting forming working group or other method to acknowledge the negative comments.

Councillor Baryluk stated that the Town offers many tools to engage the public, including updates through the municipal website and official Facebook page. He acknowledged that people were upset but expressed that he did not know how much more the Town could have done to encourage public involvement beyond the many methods and formats used during the consultation process. He added that treatment of Town staff online was shameful, and that the Town had only received 1 official letter about the sign.



Director Challis stated that she had spoken with the CBC journalist who wrote the original article, as well as artist Ron English and the local CBC reporter and that she had also reached out to local art organizations. She stated that no blame was being placed for the lack of response to invitations to attend community consultations or becoming involved in the process. She noted that Fathom Studios was also receiving online harassment due to the article and pointed out that the company developed the design based on what it heard during community consultation sessions and feedback provided by residents.

Deputy Mayor MacDonald stated that Council was responsible for the decision to move forward and that it was not fair that Director Challis was receiving the public backlash.

SAO Hood acknowledged that he supported staff and that the consultation process for the design portion of the project was very thorough. He agreed that Director Challis was being mistreated and that the public should be contacting him with their concerns.

Discussion followed on the fabrication and installation tender that recently closed but was not yet awarded and on considerations involved with re-tendering the design. SAO Hood mentioned that bids received for fabrication and installation were higher than anticipated and that some negotiation was taking place. Councillor Mero suggested seeking legal advice if re-tendering the design was being considered. She also acknowledged that there were many opportunities to get involved during the consultation process.

It was noted that the project was being fully funded by the Town with no external funding sources. Councillor Baryluk stated that Council was accountable for taxpayers' money and needed to make fiscally responsible decisions. He added that he felt it would be irresponsible to re-tender the design at this point and that he was not interested in spending more funds to do that. Councillor Loreen agreed and suggested that Council examine how these types of municipal processes could be made more accessible in the future. He also congratulated department staff on the midnight madness events that were recently held.

10.4 Community Services Report

Director Saumur summarized youth programming that is taking place, including the drop zone, craft programs and movie nights.

10.5 Senior Administrative Officer Report

Councillor Wood inquired about progress on cleaning up fire debris from a property on Kugmallit Road. SAO Hood advised that Administration was awaiting confirmation from GNWT Environment and Natural Resources about disposing of materials at the solid waste site. With respect to the other buildings on the property, SAO Hood stated that the Town was looking at options given that the interiors were unsafe, and they also have the same siding.



10.6 Protective Services Report

Moved by Councillor Solotki, seconded by Councillor Wood:

MOTION: 147/07/20 **"THAT Inuvik Town Council hereby adopts the following staff reports as presented: public services; planning and development; economic development and tourism; community services; senior administrative officer; and, protective services."**

Motion **CARRIED**.

Item # 11 **INFORMATION ITEMS**

11.1 Strategic Priorities Chart

For information only.

Item # 12 **COUNCIL CONCERNS**

Councillor Mero expressed her gratitude to staff for the quick repairs to the train playground equipment.

Councillor Baryluk inquired if the garbage bin at the skatepark could be moved nearer the park benches where most of the garbage is being deposited.

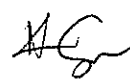
Councillor Baryluk inquired if Council should discuss the gateway welcome sign issues and tendering process. Mayor Kulikowski recommended that it be deferred to the public works committee.

Councillor Loreen inquired what happens to zones that were not allocated during the community cleanup program. SAO Hood stated that zones are left due to a shortage of staff, but that problem areas would be addressed if needed.

Councillor Solotki stated that there has been no communication from the Town to bingo licence holders about refunds. SAO Hood stated that refund cheques were issued last month. Councillor Solotki stated that those cheques had not been received by organizations.

Deputy Mayor MacDonald inquired if the Town could reach out to have footwear on powerlines removed. Director Campbell confirmed that he would contact NWT Power Corporation.

Councillor Wood mentioned that the street sweeper was leaving gravel behind. Director Campbell stated that no street sweeper would be able to pick up the size of gravel that the Town uses and that pavement was not as level as it used to be. He mentioned that the Town was using other equipment to clean up gravel left by the sweeper.



Item #13 **IN CAMERA ITEMS**

There were no items to be discussed in camera.

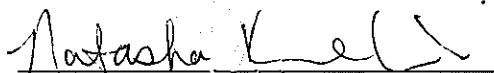
Item # 14 **ADJOURNMENT**

The committee of the whole meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Moved by Councillor Loreen:

MOTION: 148/07/20 "THAT the regular council meeting be adjourned at 8:00 p.m."

MINUTES APPROVED THIS 12TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2020 BY MOTION #156/08/20


MAYOR


A | SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER