

MINUTES

JUNE 19, 2024

GRAND FALLS

MEETING

A regular meeting of the Grand Falls Regional Municipality in New Brunswick was held at the Marcel Deschênes Building in the Roland Lafrance Room beginning at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 19, 2024, following notices as required by law.

ATTENDANCE

His Honor the Mayor:

Bertrand Beaulieu

Councillors:

Annie Deschênes

Claudette Goguen Kavanaugh

Danny Soucy

David Raines

Josée Rioux Walker

Marcel Levesque

Mario Pelletier

Sébastien R. Michaud

As well as Deputy Clerk, Michelle Daigle.

ABSENCES

Eric Gagnon

France Roussel

OPENING OF THE MEETING

The mayor welcomed everyone and thanked those present in the room for their great participation. He also extends his greetings to those who are following the meeting online. The mayor noted that council members wear a red ribbon in support of domestic violence awareness. He said that at the end of the meeting, a small ceremony will take place as part of this awareness campaign.

The mayor also welcomed Deputy Clerk Michelle Daigle, who will be acting as Clerk tonight, replacing the CAO.

DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Councillor Michaud declares a conflict of interest regarding item 7.1 of the agenda, relating to By-law P-2. Councillor Deschênes also announces a conflict of interest regarding the motion on the Replacement of a member of the Planning Committee Advisory. The mayor informs them that they will have to leave the room during the discussion of these points.

ADOPTION - AGENDA

The mayor indicated that item 8.2 will be postponed to the July meeting and will be removed from the agenda.

Sébastien Michaud / Mario Pelletier,

2024-047

That the agenda, as modified, be accepted as presented. Carried

ADOPTION – MINUTES

Annie Deschênes / Josée Rioux Walker,

2024-048 That Municipal Council adopt the minutes of May 15, 2024. Carried

DRINKING WATER

The Deputy Clerk states that in the last few weeks, 43 drinking water samples have been taken in 23 different areas across the Grand Falls Regional Municipality and that all the results are acceptable.

Danny Soucy / Sébastien Michaud,

2024-049 That the drinking water tests be received and filed. Carried

MOTIONS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Pillar – Community Development

Councillor Deschênes reminds everyone that registration for minor baseball closes on Friday and encourages contacting the CEPSC for more information. The McCain Cataracts will play two games on Saturday, and the Frolic, combined this year with Drummond and Grand Falls, will start on July 2 with a few spots still available. The water park is open as of today, and the Richelieu pool will open on the evening of June 25. Colebrook Trail Passes are available at the CEPSC and Dave's Mini-Market. The pickleball league has more than 100 participants, with courts available in Saint-André and at the centennial park.

New docks have been installed at the Marina, but all the spaces are already reserved for this year. The Municipality is considering adding more docks next year. The sport of Dragon Boat was recently introduced, and new members can get more information on the Grand Falls Dragon Boat Facebook page.

Councillor Pelletier reported on the success of this year's Truck and Tractor Pull, congratulating the participants and organizers. The Canadian Circus will be in town this Friday, and the Potato Festival will take place from June 28 to July 1.

Councillor Soucy announced the availability of the Société Culturelle des Chutes 2024-2025 programming. Tickets for the Breakfast for a Cause are on sale for the Friday, June 28 event from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Pillar – Economic Development

Councillor Levesque announced the opening of La Rochelle Centre this Saturday, June 22, offering free admission to Grand Falls residents upon presentation of proof of identity. He invites everyone to explore the local artisan market and encourages those interested in selling artisan products to contact the Economic Development and Marketing Department at (506) 240-1774. Furthermore, Camping Chutes et Gorge has been open since June 7, and in May, the Malobiannah Centre welcomed approximately 5,550 visitors, marking a great start to the tourist season.

The deputy mayor points out that the municipality recently introduced incentives for commercial, industrial businesses and housing projects. Companies planning new construction are invited to consult the municipality's website, development section, for all the necessary information, or to contact the department concerned for further explanations.

She also recalls the importance of respecting the regulations in force for any project, whether it is a small project or more extensive projects. The Land Use Department team is available to provide any assistance needed and applications can easily be submitted online.

In May, 34 building permits were issued, bringing the total to 118 for the year, with a cumulative value of \$11.8 million. This represents an increase of 25% compared to the same period last year.

Pillar - Community Development

Councillor Raines reported on the success of the 49th Drummond Firefighters' Muster, praising the team led by Chief Caron for the impeccable organization of the event without incident. He also announced the victory of the Saint-André brigade in the general classification, highlighting their exemplary dedication and preparation. Furthermore, acts of vandalism have been reported at the skatepark despite the efforts of an individual who made tools available to users. The skatepark was vandalized twice in 24 hours. Residents are encouraged to report any incidents to the police immediately, and to inform parents if the identity of those responsible is known.

Due to the end of the school year, there are more young people playing outside and bicycles circulating in the streets. It is important for drivers to remain vigilant and to completely stop at stop signs, as some children may not do so. Councillor Raines thanks the Operations Department for their essential work in keeping our municipality running smoothly and making it possible to host events like last weekend's Tractor Pull and the upcoming festival.

The mayor emphasizes that vandalism in our community is a collective responsibility. He encourages residents to report any suspicious acts to the police, to contact the parents involved, and to educate their own children on the respect of public property.

Pillar – Governance

This Pillar has nothing to bring to the table tonight.

Succession plan for the fire department of the Grand Falls Regional Municipality

Sébastien Michaud / Marcel Levesque,

2024-050 WHEREAS Chief Réjean Beaulieu of the Saint-André fire brigade resigned from his effective position on May 31, 2024;

AND WHEREAS this resignation requires immediate action to ensure continuity of fire services for the citizens of the Saint-André ward;

IT IS RESOLVED THAT the Municipal Council of the Grand Falls Regional Municipality approves and recognizes the temporary appointment of Chief Yvan Caron and Assistant Chief Denis Walker of the Drummond brigade to ensure the direction and proper functioning of the fire services;

AND IT IS RESOLVED THAT this appointment has been effective since June 1, 2024 and will remain in effect until further notice. Carried

The mayor clarified that this is a temporary measure to maintain operations while waiting to appoint a new chief for the fire station. He confirmed that the Saint-André, Grand Falls and Drummond fire departments will all remain in place individually. There are no plans to merge the three brigades into a single entity.

Policy 2024-14 Toponymy committee

Claudette Goguen Kavanaugh / Sébastien Michaud,

2024-051 That the municipal council adopt the policy entitled “Toponymy Committee”, as presented. Carried

The mayor announced the creation of a toponymy committee to recommend names for streets and buildings and said that a call will soon be launched to recruit members for this committee.

Replacement of a member of the Planning Committee Advisory

*NB** Councillor Deschênes declared a conflict and left the room at 7:11 p.m. and returned at 7:12 p.m.*

Marcel Levesque / Josée Rioux Walker,

2024-052 **Considering that the Planning Advisory Committee has notified the Municipal Council and requested the replacement of a member, in accordance with policy 2023-03 of the Planning Advisory Committee, in article 13.**

It is resolved that Mr. Michel St-Amand be appointed to replace Ms. Tina Lagacé-Rivard as a member of the Urban Planning Advisory Committee, until January 1, 2025. Carried

BUSINESS STARTED

By-law P-2 Garbage Collection and Disposal

*NB** Councillor Michaud declared a conflict and left the room at 7:22 p.m. and returned at 7:23 p.m.*

The Deputy Clerk gave third reading in title only of By-law P-2, following the notices under subsection 15 (3) of the *Local Governance Act*.

David Raines / Marcel Levesque

2024-053 **That municipal council adopt the third reading of By-law P-2, By-law Regulating the Collection and Disposal of Garbage, as read. Carried**

NEW BUSINESS

A word from the mayor

The mayor extends his sincere congratulations to the graduates of Polyvalente Thomas-Albert and John Caldwell School for their accomplishments and wishes them good luck in their future projects.

He wishes all citizens an excellent Potato Festival and points out that this year marks the 62nd edition, an event that is rare in its longevity. Grand Falls can be proud to maintain such a vibrant festival. The mayor expresses his gratitude to the hundreds of volunteers who generously offer their time. He wishes them a good festival and reminds us that their dedication is greatly appreciated. Without them, the festival would not exist.

Community Grandioses

We are proud to recognize two Community Grandioses tonight. In the Ambassador category, we congratulate Coco Béliveau, and in the Volunteer category, we congratulate Mariette LaFrance.

The mayor invites citizens to submit the names of individuals who deserve to be recognized as Community Grandioses.

OTHER

- Public Intervention

There was no media intervention.

- Media intervention

There was no media intervention.

Unveiling of the silhouette of Mrs. Mindy Godin

Tonight, we unveil the silhouette of Miss Mindy Godin, a victim of domestic violence. She leaves behind her children, her family, her friends, and her entire community. Mindy's figure is the 35th in New Brunswick, a tragically high number. There was a moment of silence in her memory and in memory of the other 34 victims.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 17th, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., in the Roland Lafrance room.

CLOSING OF THE MEETING

Councillor Michaud proposes to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 p.m. Carried

Bertrand Beaulieu,
Mayor

Michelle Daigle,
Deputy Clerk