

**Amherst Town Council
Committee of the Whole
Minutes**

Date: April 29, 2019
Time: 9:00 am
Location: Council Chambers, Town Hall

Members Present Mayor David Kogon
Deputy Mayor Sheila Christie
Councillor Jason Blanch
Councillor Vince Byrne
Councillor Darrell Jones
Councillor Wayne MacKenzie
Councillor Terry Rhindress

Staff Present Greg Herrett, CAO
Jason MacDonald, Deputy CAO Operations
Bill Schurman, Director Recreation
Greg Jones, Fire Chief
Andrew Fisher, Manager of Planning & Strategic Initiatives
Tom McCoag, Corporate Communications Officer
Rebecca Taylor, Business Development Officer
Shelley Rector, Chief Financial Officer
Kim Jones, Municipal Clerk
Natalie LeBlanc, Deputy Clerk

1. Call to Order

Mayor Kogon called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

1.1 Approval of Agenda

Moved By Councillor MacKenzie

Seconded By Councillor Blanch

That the agenda be approved as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

2. Strategic Priorities

Mr. Fisher reviewed documents.

3. General Operating Budget Information Items

3.1 Summary

3.2 Tax Rate History

3.3 Comparative Tax Rate Analysis

- 3.4 Long Term Financial Planning Model
- 3.5 Assessment Comparison
- 3.6 Revenue Generated by \$0.01 on the Tax Rate
- 3.7 Debenture Schedule
- 3.8 Debt Service Ratio
- 3.9 Capital Reserve Balances
- 3.10 Operating Reserve Balances

4. **General Operating Budget - Overall**

The CFO gave a brief review and outlined the process. Council would like copies of the presentation slide show for each department.

5. **Break**

6. **Corporate Services**

7. **Fire**

8. **Economic Development**

9. **Recreation**

10. **Stadium**

11. **Planning**

12. **Strategic**

13. **Operations**

14. **Policies**

16. **Tourism Strategy**

17. **Next Steps in Budget Process**

18. **Grants to Organizations Policy Discussion**

Discussion Areas:

1. Certain categories that are eligible for funding.
2. Dollar value limit.
3. Reporting requirements.
4. Conditions for funding.
5. Rules for funding.
6. How is funding provided.
7. How are approved amounts allocated.
8. Who does the decision making.

Staff to work on the Policy which will be discussed at the meeting on May 15th.

19. Capital Budget - Summit Avenue Sidewalk

Moved By Councillor Jones

Seconded By Councillor Rhindress

That Council forward consideration of approval of \$53,000 to support the installation of a sidewalk on North Adelaide Street from Harding Avenue to Summit Avenue, and from Summit Avenue to the seniors complex, to the May budget approval meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

20. Capital Budget - Community Solar

Moved By Deputy Mayor Christie

Seconded By Councillor Blanch

That Council forward approval of the costs of Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Project Development, Installation, and Commissioning in the amount of \$256,491, plus applicable taxes, NSPI connection fees of approximately \$3,000, and a structural engineer's fees of approximately \$10,000 to the May budget meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

21. Capital Budget - PCAP Priority Project

Moved By Councillor Byrne

Seconded By Councillor Rhindress

That for purposes of applying for grants under the Provincial Capital Assistance Program (PCAP) our priorities are 1) LaPlanche River Lift Station Upgrades and 2) Edgewood Drive Storm Sewer and Water Upgrades.

MOTION CARRIED

22. Adjournment

Moved By Councillor Byrne

Seconded By Councillor Rhindress

To adjourn the meeting at 2:15 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED

Kimberlee Jones
Municipal Clerk

David Kogon, MD
Mayor