



Minutes of the Special Council Meeting

Place: Council Chambers, Zoom, streamed live to Facebook
Date: Wednesday, June 12, 2024
Presiding Officer: Mayor Greg Henley
Councillors Present: Deputy Mayor Arnold MacDonald, Carla Black, Olivia Canning, Brenton Colborne, and Chrystal McNutt.
Councillor Regrets: Paul Jones

A quorum was present throughout the meeting.

Staff in attendance: Linda Cloney - CAO, Stan McDougall - Admin Assistant (recording secretary), Ruthann Brookins - Manager of Finance and Mitch Hannigan, Interim MPAL leader.

Presenters in attendance: Nil

Media In Attendance: Mark Rushton, Six Rivers News, Radio, and TV.

Gallery in attendance: Jason Haughn, Municipal Advisor, Department of Municipal Affairs. Members of the Oxford Seniors Centre: Mark Rushton, Stephen Murray, Myrna Murray, Judy MacKay, Shirley Badcock, Sharon Rogers, Paul Rogers and Debbie Dickie.

Councillor Colborne joined the meeting at 6:04 PM.

1. Call to Order

At 5:59 PM, Mayor Henley called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance at the meeting.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

Moved by Deputy Mayor MacDonald and seconded by Councillor McNutt that the agenda of the Special Council Meeting for Wednesday, June 12, 2024, be approved, as presented.

Motion Carried

3. **Public Hearing for Transfer of Municipal Property – 31 Ellis Street**

Mayor Henley called the Public Hearing for the matter regarding the transfer of municipal property to the Oxford Seniors Club, located at 31 Ellis Street, Oxford to order at 6:00 PM.

Mayor Henley turned the floor over to Linda Cloney, CAO, to present a review of the information leading up to this Public Hearing to all in attendance.

CAO Linda Cloney reviewed that on October 17, 2023, the Oxford Seniors Club approached the Town with their interest in transferring the municipal property on 31 Ellis Street to the Oxford Seniors Club.

The property at 31 Ellis Street had been the home for the club since January 13, 1977, when the club was then known as the Oxford Pioneer Heritage Club. The Oxford Seniors Club is committed to providing seniors with recreational, educational, and charitable activities to all their members and the community. The transfer of the property would put the responsibilities of the building upkeep and to be able to fundraise for upgrades to the facility. Some funding opportunities would be more supportive if the Oxford Seniors Club owned the building rather than leasing the building.

Discussions on the matter started on January 20, 2024. Ultimately, at a council meeting on April 24, 2024, the Council made a motion to proceed with the process of the Public Hearing for the transfer of municipal property with the condition that the Town of Oxford would have the first right of refusal to buy the building back at the original purchase price and that the Oxford Seniors Club would pay for all the expenses involved with this transfer.

The notice of Public Hearing had been posted as of May 21, 2024.

Linda Cloney reviewed with the Council and those in attendance at the Public Hearing, that letters of support had been received from Elsie Moore, Diane Angus, Judy McKay, Myrna Murray, and Stephen Murray.

Mayor Henley inquired from those in attendance at the Public Hearing if anyone would like to speak on the matter for the Council's consideration.

Mark Rushton, a citizen of Oxford, member of the Oxford Seniors Club and president of the Oxford Historical Society addressed the Council. Mark explained that he is a supportive member of the Oxford Seniors Club, which accepts members aged 50 and up. While not an active participant in the full range of activities at the Oxford Seniors Club, who operate and provides activities 6 days per week; offering many recreational activities for the seniors of the community, Mark praised their "Coffee House" program. The Coffee House has also served to help the Oxford Historical Society as they also meet there every Tuesday at the Coffee House. Mark Rushton endorses the process the Council has been going through to transfer the ownership of the property at 31 Ellis Street to the Oxford Seniors Club and would like to see them continue and develop the programs that they have in their current location.

There being nothing further, Mayor Henley ended the Public Hearing at 6:06 PM.

Moved by Councillor Black and seconded by Deputy Mayor MacDonald that Oxford Town Council has received a request from the Oxford Seniors Club for the transfer of municipal property located at 31 Ellis Street for one dollar with the condition that the Town of Oxford has the first right of refusal to buy the building back at the original purchased price;

And that the Oxford Seniors Club pays for all expenses involved with the transfer of property;

And that Oxford Town Council considers the Oxford Seniors Club to be carrying on activities beneficial to the Town of Oxford;

And the estimated value of the property has been appraised in the \$90,000 to \$95,000 range;

And that a public hearing was duly advertised on May 21, 2024, and held on June 12, 2024, before the passing of the resolution.

Councillor McNutt – Yes

Deputy Mayor MacDonald – Yes

Mayor Henley – Yes

Councillor Black – Yes

Councillor Canning – Yes

Councillor Colborne – Yes

4. **Second reading for the Alternative Voting Bylaw 05-2024, Page 3**

Linda Cloney, CAO reviewed that the 05-2024 bylaw has been posted and first reading has been given. The Council is now asked to give a second reading to the Alternative Voting Bylaw 05-2024. In doing so, this will also repeal the former bylaw that was enacted on May 22, 2020.

Moved by Councillor Colborne and seconded by Councillor Black that the Town of Oxford give second reading of Bylaw 05-2024, Alternative Voting Bylaw.

Motion Carried

5. **In-Camera**

5.1 acquisition, sale, lease, and security of municipal property

At 6:15 PM, it was moved by Councillor McNutt and seconded by Councillor Black to go in-camera to discuss the acquisition, sale, lease, and security of municipal property.

Motion Carried

At 6:36 PM it was moved by Deputy Mayor MacDonald and seconded by Councillor Black to come out of in-camera and resume the Special Council Meeting.

Motion Carried

Linda Cloney, CAO reviewed with the Council that staff had put together an application to the Provincial Capital Assistance Program and a resolution to approve the application is required from Council for the development of the Town of Oxford's well field at McElmon's Brook. Part of this project involves land acquisition so that the Town of Oxford will formally own the land that the well field resides on. This will provide more coverage for the Source Water Protection Plan Zone 1 – the area in which the wells are located.

Moved by Councillor McNutt and seconded by Councillor Canning to approve the application to the Provincial Capital Assistance Program for 50% of the McElmon's Brook Well Field – Oxford – Well Field Development project.


Motion Carried

6. Adjournment


The meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM



Mayor Greg Henley, Chair



Stan McDougall, Admin Assistant



Date Approved

