

SPECIAL MINUTES
TOWNSHIP OF MACDONALD, MEREDITH & ABERDEEN ADDITIONAL
TUESDAY JANUARY 31, 2023
7:00 P.M. –Council Chambers

Land Acknowledgement: We acknowledge, with respect, that we are in Robinson-Huron Treaty territory, that the land on which we are gathered is the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe and known as Bawating. Bawating is the home of Garden River First Nation, Batchewana First Nation, and the Historic Metis Council.

Mayor: Lynn Watson (Left meeting at 7:15pm)

Acting Mayor: Shelly Bailey (Appointed Acting Mayor at 7:15pm)

Council: Derek Hansen, Adam Chevis, Parker Brockelbank

Staff: Lacey Kastikainen, Lynne Duguay, Brenda Barbarie, Catie Stevens,

1. Call Meeting to Order
#23-53
Moved by: Shelly Bailey
Seconded by: Adam Chevis
“RESOLVED that we open our Regular Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
CD.
2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting
5. Delegations/Public Presentation
6. Staff & Committee Reports
7. By-Laws
8. Unfinished Business
9. New Business
 - a) Round Table Discussion

#23-54

Moved by: Parker Brockelbank

Seconded by: Derek Hansen

“RESOLVED that we appoint Acting Mayor Bailey as chair of the meeting due to Mayor Watson needing to leave at 7:15pm.”

CD.

Mayor Watson:

Thinks we need to clean up and focus on projects on the go:

- Tennis court
- Echo lake road
- Sportsplex roof (funding pending)
- Administration – all kinds of new things that need to be accomplished; asset management, succession plan, strategic plan (some in house, some contracted out) these are areas that have been ignored for several years.
- Recommending focusing on cleaning things up instead of focusing on new projects this year.
- Part way through last council term we had the sand dome, which was an unexpected big-ticket item.
- Important to catch up this year and that is his priority.

Councillor Chevis:

- Hurley Park – bathroom and water fountain (hard for maintenance and operations, but it’s tough not to have the service available) and something that we need to look into soon as spring is coming, and we have the playground equipment scheduled for install.
- Hurley street lighting – many people mention that it’s too dark along Hurley Street (many poles available to utilize for lighting)
- Pointed out that with inflation the way that it is we need to be careful not jump to a tax rate decrease.
- We need to keep providing those tangible investment and savings should be reinvested in the community.
- Very healthy reserve fund – would rather see that our taxpayers get back a return on their investment.
- Wants to see things get cleaned up as well.
- Thinks it’s great that we have a new objective set of lenses to find efficiencies.

- Wants an in depth sportsplex cost analysis.
- Asked the rest of council what their thoughts on Cottage Road are. – If the road is not in shape to plow safely, do we continue to invest in this road?
- Councillor Chevis likes the incremental approach that we took this year. Suggests we keep chipping away at it each year.
- Wants to look at tipping fees for contractors to dump outside garbage – the landfill is being abused and the lifespan is greatly shortened.

Councillor Bailey:

- Splash pad - although funding has been declined, she would still like to see this as a priority.
- Agrees with Adam about the bathrooms and the water fountain.
- Happy with where we are going – especially in leisure services and expanding into new service areas.
- The tax rate has not been raised in a number of years.
- Shelly agrees about engineering costs and it's time to shop around.
- Thinks we should look at a full extended cab truck instead of a bench seat to accommodate.
- No garbage pickup (consensus of Councillor Chevis, Brockelbank & Hansen).

Councillor Hansen:

- Thinks that we need to finish the stuff that is on the go and tighten things up.
- Let's clean things up and see where we are at.
- Wants to look at possibly doing a few more things in house – such as perimeter ditching at landfill, ditching, and capitalizing on shared services with neighboring municipalities.

Councillor Brockelbank:

- Wants to have discussion about when he got elected, he campaigned a lot and most concerns were:
 - # 1 thing was about tax rates.
 - # 2 was about roads.
- Wants to seriously look at all our operational expenses.
- Wants to look at reducing our operating expenses by 10%
- Look at competition in the marketplace.
- Taking a serious look at every line item of the budget to see if we have any savings.
- Proposing a rate reduction in the amount of the trimmed savings
- Cost analysis on the SV Hall – Should we sell it?
- Look outside the box for opportunities.
- Possibly look at contracting items such as grass cutting
- Cottage Road – look at figuring out what it would take to get that road to a class 6 where our plow truck could get in.
- Wants a breakdown of all Fixed Costs vs operational costs.
- Also wants to look at tipping fees (especially for contractors)

10. Presenting, Referring or Passing of Account
11. Closed Session-Permissive
12. Correspondence
13. Mayor & Councillors Comments
14. Passing of Confirmatory By-law

15. Adjournment

#23-55

Moved by: Parker Brockelbank

Seconded by: Derek Hansen

“RESOLVED that this Council shall now adjourn to February 7, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. or until the call of the chair.”

CD.

THAT these minutes be accepted this _____ day of _____ 2023.

MAYOR

CLERK ADMINISTRATOR