



The Corporation of the Municipality of Mississippi Mills

Council Meeting

MINUTES

December 15, 2020

5:40 p.m.

Council Chambers, Municipal Office

3131 Old Perth Road

PRESENT:

Mayor Lowry
Deputy Mayor Minnille
Councillor Dalgity
Councillor Maydan
Councillor Holmes
Councillor Guerard
Councillor Ferguson

Staff Present

Ken Kelly, CAO
Cynthia Moyle, Acting Clerk
Jennifer Russell, Deputy Clerk
Rhonda Whitmarsh, Treasurer
Christine Row, Chief Librarian
Chad Brown, Fire Chief
Tiffany MacLaren, Community and Culture Coordinator
Maggie Yet, Planner I
Cory Smith, A/Director of Roads and Public Works

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Lowry called the meeting to order at 5:43 p.m.

B. CONSIDERATION OF A CLOSED SESSION

Resolution No 471-20

Moved by Councillor Dalgity

Seconded by Councillor Ferguson

THAT Council enter into an in camera session at 5:43 p.m. re: personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees (*Municipal Act* s. 239 2(b)).

CARRIED

B.1 HR Matter

C. RISE AND REPORT

Council recessed at 5:51 p.m.

Council resumed at 6:01 p.m.

C.1 HR Matter

Resolution No 472-20

Moved by Councillor Holmes

Seconded by Councillor Dalgity

THAT Council approve the payout of accumulated overtime for employees 0553 and 0665.

CARRIED

D. O CANADA

Council stood for the playing of O Canada.

E. MOMENT OF SILENT MEDITATION

Council observed a moment of silent meditation.

F. ATTENDANCE

Clerk announced the attendance.

G. MAYOR'S ANNUAL ADDRESS

The Mayor's Annual Address is attached to the minutes.

G.1 Years of Service Recognition

The Mayor congratulated and thanked staff who received an award. Years of Service recognition was given to the following:

- Amanda McCartney, Assistant Teacher, Daycare - 10 years
- Gina Timmins, Assistant Teacher, Daycare - 10 years

- Jessica Jones, ECE Teacher, Daycare - 10 years
- John Larose, Cleaner/Janitor, Daycare - 10 years
- Sarah Fourney, ECE Teacher, Daycare - 10 years
- Geoff Timmins, Water Operator, Lead Hand Public Works – 15 years
- Cindy Hartwick, Roads and Public Works Admin Clerk – 20 years
- Heather Hahn, Former Library Assistant, Almonte Branch – 20 years
- Joanne Silief, Tax and Water Clerk – 20 years
- Patricia Shanks, Assistant Teacher, Daycare - 20 years
- Rhonda Whitmarsh, Treasurer – 20 years
- Ryan Byers, Head Teacher, Daycare - 20 years
- John Gleeson, Operator 1, Lead Hand, Roads & Public Works – 25 years
- Sue Robertson, Former ECE Teacher Daycare - 35 years

G.2 Presentation to Karen Kane, Daycare Director (Retired)

Karen Kane, former Director of Daycare, retired in March 2020 as a long serving employee. Council and staff presented Karen with her certificate of 35 years of service and retirement gift.

Council recessed at 6:23 p.m.

Council resumed at 6:32 p.m.

H. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Resolution No 473-20

Moved by Councillor Ferguson

Seconded by Councillor Dalgity

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED

I. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

Councillor Dalgity declared a pecuniary interest on items M.1. 2021 Budget.

Councillor Dalgity declared a pecuniary interest on items M.3.b. Mississippi River

Power Corporation Selection Committee Minutes - November 12, 2020.
Deputy Mayor Minnille declared a pecuniary interest on item M.3.b. Mississippi River Power Corporation Selection Committee Minutes - November 12, 2020.

J. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Resolution No 474-20

Moved by Councillor Holmes

Seconded by Councillor Maydan

THAT the minutes dated December 1, 2020 be approved.

CARRIED

K. DELEGATION, DEPUTATIONS, AND PRESENTATIONS

None

L. PUBLIC MEETINGS

L.1 Official Plan Amendment 27 and Z-18-20 - Orchard View (Houchaimi Holdings Inc)

Marc Rivet, Planning Consultant, JLRichards, provided an overview of the proposed amendments. The presentation slides have been attached to the minutes. The following comments were sent to the Planning department:

- Tracy Julian - How many units will this include? Objects to proposal due to unknown costs of units and affordable housing availability, proposal does not support COP target to provide 25 percent of new housing to be affordable
- Susan Law - Concerns on Paterson St. parking and traffic. Supports development
- Ann LeBlanc and Malcolm Graham - Requested additional information and supports development.
- Debbie Merrithew - Questions as to number of units and stories, off street parking provided, when will construction begin and be completed
- Gill Morris - Question regarding the field to the side of proposed development designated as Prime Agricultural Land
- Brenda and Wayne Munro - Is this an Orchard view development, concerns regarding on street parking and traffic problems on Paterson Street

- McIntosh Perry - further information regarding the proposal

Should anyone wish to make additional comments, they may do so directly to the Planning Department.

L.2 Stop Up and Close Request - Portion of Old Perth Road Allowance

Maggie Yet, Planner I, provided an overview of the proposed surplus lands for stop-up and disposition. The following comments were sent to Planner 1:

- BEAST - Snowmobile trail resides on a portion of the property, not in favour of the sale
- Audy Bedard - Request to not sell property due to trail use
- Julie-Anne Bedard - Request to not sell property due to trail use
- Nick de Boer - Questions regarding lot size, setbacks, detailed map and objects to sale of property
- Ron Deschamps - Family owns property beside road allowance and uses trail regularly, option to purchase for other neighbours
- Craig Halpenny - Represents Patricia Deschamps, objects proposal for 5 reasons
- Tammy Kleiboer- Objects to proposal due to trail use and interested in purchasing land
- Paul and Sarah Smith - Objects due to development within the area, inconsistent with Official Plan due to size and regular trail use, environmental impacts, protection of rural activities
- Noel and Janet Noyes-Brown - Petition received on December 14th that meets the Petition Policy requirements and objects to the sale of property with _____ signatures.
- Catherine Blake - Long term ramifications of development and disruption of rural life.
- Valerie Wilkinson - Use of trail for activities, provides access to nearby roads

M. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT

M.1 2021 Budget

Councillor Dalgity declared a pecuniary interest on the Operational Daycare Budget and did not participate or vote on this item.

Resolution No 475-20

Moved by Councillor Holmes

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Minnille

THAT Council approve the 2021 Daycare Operational Budget.

CARRIED

Councillor Guerard requested a recorded vote on item M.1 2021 Budget excluding Daycare

Resolution No 476-20

Moved by Councillor Dalgity

Seconded by Councillor Ferguson

THAT Council approve the 2021 Budget, excluding the Daycare Operational Budget.

YAS (6): Mayor Lowry, Deputy Mayor Minnille, Councillor Dalgity, Councillor Maydan, Councillor Holmes, and Councillor Ferguson

NAS (1): Councillor Guerard

CARRIED (6 to 1)

M.2 Zoning By-law Amendment Application Z-17-20 Plan 6262 MS PT Lots 7 and 8; RP 27R10569 Part 2, Carss St. Almonte (Ortt)

Resolution No 477-20

Moved by Deputy Mayor Minnille

Seconded by Councillor Dalgity

THAT Council approve the Zoning By-law Amendment to change the zoning on the lands describe as PLAN 6262 MS PT LOTS 7 AND 8;RP 27R10569 PART 2, Almonte Ward, Municipality of Mississippi Mills from “Residential First Density (R1)” to “Residential Second Density – Subzone D (R2D)”, to permit and facilitate the construction of a semi-detached bungalow fronting onto Carss Street.

CARRIED

Amendment:

Resolution No 478-20

Moved by Councillor Maydan

Seconded by Councillor Holmes

AND THAT the By-law be amended to reflect the 6 m setback of the attached garage.

CARRIED

M.3 Committee of the Whole Report - December 1, 2020

Resolution No 479-20

Moved by Councillor Ferguson

Seconded by Councillor Maydan

THAT Council approve the Committee of the Whole motions from the December 1, 2020 meeting;

AND THAT items M.3.b. Mississippi River Power Corporation Selection Committee Minutes - November 12, 2020 and M.3.i. Joint Cost Sharing Recreation Agreement with Beckwith and Carleton Place Status be pulled for further consideration.

CARRIED

M.3.a Consent Items (Committee Minutes and Reports)

M.3.c Emergency Management By-law

M.3.d Opportunities under the Local Improvement Act for Broadband

M.3.e Joint Cost Sharing Recreation Committee Appointment – Councillor Guerard

M.3.f Amendment to the Recruitment, Selection and Hiring Policy

M.3.g Vacation Usage Amendment to Employee Benefits Bylaw

M.3.h Mississippi Mills Youth Centre Lease Renewal

M.3.j Information List #14-20 Item #10 - Howick Township Resolution re: Tile Drain Loans

M.3.b Mississippi River Power Corporation Selection Committee Minutes - November 12, 2020

Resolution No 480-20

Moved by Councillor Ferguson

Seconded by Councillor Maydan

THAT Council change the weighting criteria to:

- Governance 20%
- Generation / Utility Experience / Knowledge 20%
- Business Experience / Knowledge 40%
- Personal Capabilities and Knowledge 20%

CARRIED

M.3.i Joint Cost Sharing Recreation Agreement with Beckwith and Carleton Place Status

Resolution No 481-20

Moved by Councillor Ferguson

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Minnille

THAT Council accept the "Joint Cost Sharing Recreation Agreement with Beckwith & Carleton Place Status" report as information.

CARRIED

N. BY-LAWS

N.1 By-law 20-114 ZBLA - Carss St. (Ortt)

Deferred to January 12, 2020 Council meeting.

N.2 By-law 20-120 Emergency Management By-law

Resolution No 482-20

Moved by Councillor Holmes

Seconded by Councillor Ferguson

THAT By-law 20-120 Emergency Management By-law be read, passed, signed and sealed in Open Council.

CARRIED

O. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INVITATIONS

Councillor Ferguson - Best wishes to all for the holiday season

Councillor Guerard - Lanark, Leeds and Grenville Health Unit now in Yellow Zone for Covid. Almonte General Hospital providing testing December 18th for pre-booked appointments.

Deputy Mayor Minnille - Congratulations to Mayor Lowry for being elected as 2021 Lanark County Warden

P. CONFIRMATORY BY-LAW

Resolution No 483-20

Moved by Councillor Maydan

Seconded by Councillor Ferguson

THAT By-law 20-121 being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Mississippi Mills at its regular meeting held on the 15th day of December 2020, be read, passed, signed and sealed in Open Council this 15th day of December, 2020.

CARRIED

Q. ADJOURNMENT

Resolution No 484-20

Moved by Councillor Guerard

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Minnille

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

CARRIED

Christa Lowry, MAYOR

Cynthia Moyle, ACTING CLERK



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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December 15, 2020

Mayor's Annual Address

2020 has been a year unlike any other. As we come to the halfway mark of the 2018-2022 term, I am looking forward to when we can join together with family, friends, neighbours and colleagues in ways that we used to take for granted. A year ago, when I provided my last Mayoral Address, none of us had any idea what the next months would bring: that a simple virus could fundamentally change so much in our lives. I am filled with sorrow for the parents and grandparents, sisters and brothers, friends and neighbours we have lost during the local outbreak. These are people who contributed to the fabric of our daily lives with each loss rippling through the community.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, our community has shown its true character by coming together and supporting one another during this difficult time. The community has rallied around our long-term care homes, our first responders and healthcare workers; around neighbours needing help, and around local business. We have all had to adapt and learn to respond to ever-changing scenarios.

The work of the Municipality has continued on. Although not quite business as usual, the goal of providing exceptional service to the residents of Mississippi Mills remains. Municipal staff have gone above and beyond to ensure service to the public continues as expected; two key projects to provide this service was live video streaming of Council meetings and rolling out an updated, user-friendly website this fall. Council has further decided to support updating the technology used by the municipality and has made this priority in 2021.

Irrespective to the pandemic, Council has seen major projects completed this year and continues to advance others:

- The Strategic Direction of Council has been set to 2023.
- A corporate-wide service delivery review has been completed with some recommendations incorporated into the 2021 Budget.

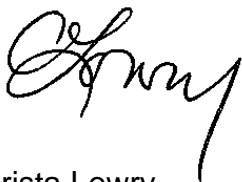
- Community Official Plan Amendment 22 is being undertaken, examining the urban settlement boundary area and determining where we will grow.
- Construction of Phase 2 of the Riverwalk and the Mill Workers Staircase has started with completion expected in 2021.
- The contract for the new \$3M water storage facility has begun with work scheduled to be completed by the end of 2021.
- Thanks to over \$1M in provincial and federal funding, the Levi Bridge will be replaced in 2021 and upgraded from a one-lane to a two-lane bridge with new railings and guardrails, making it safer for drivers and pedestrians.
- The final phase of the industrial park is being designed so that Mississippi Mills can continue to attract growing and energized businesses that will increase employment opportunities within our municipality. Lots expect to be marketed in Spring/Summer of 2021.
- Council has given direction to staff that the Downtown Revitalization project is to commence in 2022.
- Planning is getting underway to celebrate Mississippi Mills Bicentennial in 2023.

Mississippi Mills continues to be promoted as one of the places to visit in Ontario especially around Christmas time due to our charming downtowns, unique shops & galleries, great coffee and restaurants and no doubt also due to the friendliness and Christmas spirit of all our citizens. This year, the spotlight has shone on Mississippi Mills as the feature in many blogs, videos and articles across Canada. Most recently, we are featured in a series of videos by Ontario Tourism encouraging people to “Support Local” as well as in an article for the New York Times.

Surprisingly and perhaps despite the odds, Mississippi Mills has seen encouraging growth and opportunity in 2020. Over 30 new businesses have opened, expanded or been taken on by new ownership in the last 18 months. While we cannot ignore that we have lost some businesses over the year as casualties of COVID, we’ve also seen businesses pivot or reinvent themselves to adjust to circumstances or meet a new demand. In 2020, five more movies were filmed in Mississippi Mills bringing the total in recent years to 21. Economic development of a different stripe, some of these films inject as much as \$100,000 into our local economy.

In closing, I want to thank everyone on the frontlines, the healthcare workers and first responders and to all essential workers who show up every day and work with seemingly tireless dedication. Thank you to the social service agencies and community organizations who hold up those who need help - we could not do this without you. And thank you to every single person in this community who has volunteered to buy groceries for a stranger, who checks in on their neighbours, who calls or writes to someone who may be lonely, who decided to grow a row for the Food Bank, who has donated a little extra to Interval House, who put up some Christmas lights this year for the first time. Thank you to all who have decided to face this year not with fear, but with kindness.

As we have navigated these unprecedented times together, it has given me a great sense of pride to see residents, businesses and organizations pull together to show support to one another and be a source of encouragement and hope. This is a year I certainly would never want to see us repeat. But over and over again, this community has shown that we truly are in this together. As 2020 draws to a close, I would invite you to reflect on all that has been this year, to project positivity into the new year, trusting that the next few weeks will bring you a renewed sense of peace and togetherness as we celebrate a quiet holiday season. My hope is that when the pandemic is long behind us, we remember that kindness, gratitude and community can help us weather any storm.



Christa Lowry
Mayor of Mississippi Mills