

TOWN OF SHEDIAC
REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
MINUTES

February 5, 2024
6 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Present: Roger Caissie, Mayor
Sylvie Collette-Boudreau
Patricia Bourque-Chevarie
Paul Boudreau
Jean-Claude Bertin
Germaine Gallant
Émile O'Brien
Peter Breau
Janice Cormier
Roland Cormier
Joël Despres
Harry McInroy
Murray Lloyd

Non-voting Members Present: Victor Boudreau, CAO
Sylvain Montreuil, Clerk
Julie Belanger
Robert McEwen
Danny Pellerin
Carole Laneuville

1. Call to Order

The Chairman Mayor Roger Caissie called the meeting to order at 6 pm.

1.1 Reflection and recognition of the territory

The mayor Roger Caissie mentions that we are gathered on the traditional and unceded territory of the Micmac and Maliseet nations.

2. Confirmation of Quorum by clerk

The Clerk confirms that a quorum has been established.

3. Conflict of interests

No conflict of interests are declared.

4. Approval of Agenda

Moved By: Jean-Claude Bertin

Seconded By: Sylvie Collette-Boudreau

THAT the agenda be approved as submitted.

MOTION CARRIED

5. Approval of Minutes

5.1 Minutes of the meeting held on January 22, 2024

Moved By: Roland Cormier

Seconded By: Émile O'Brien

THAT the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on January 22, 2024, be adopted.

MOTION CARRIED

6. Public Presentations/Petitions/Delegations

6.1 Pointe-du-Chêne road conditions and maintenance

Claude Poirier, a Shediac resident and president of the Bluff Association, appeared before Council in support of a motion to be put forward by Councillor Harry McInroy for the maintenance of roads in Pointe-du-Chêne. He points out that for several years now, the province's road maintenance services in Pointe-du-Chêne have been less and less adequate, and he hopes that the Town of Shediac will be able to provide these services in the future.

6.2 Funding request - Lobster Festival

Pascal Haché, Chair of the Board of Directors of the Lobster Festival, and General Manager Julie Arsenault are presenting a request for additional funding for the 75th edition of the Lobster Festival, to be held from July 5 to 14, 2024. They presented the details of this request to offer a colorful 75th edition. Mr. Haché explains that the total amount of this request is \$150,000. An amount of \$50,000 will be used jointly with the Town of Shediac to embellish the downtown area during the festival, as well as in the weeks leading up to and following the event. The next part, totalling \$100,000, is more a question of logistics, to ensure a presence at the various locations where the Festival will take place during the event. To ensure a presence at the opening ceremony in Rotary Park near the giant lobster on July 5, the Festival will rent a mixbus to serve as a stage. The mixbus will be available for four days at the start of the Festival. Also, it's important to offer free activities for the family, so a "Family Fun" section has been created and the Festival will bring back the parade, which is much appreciated by all. What's more, the Lobster Festival has reserved a large tent for the 75th anniversary, which will host a free family event on July 11. Finally, the tent is much bigger this year to accommodate the Salesbarbe band for two nights. The tent will be placed in the parking lot

of the Shediac Pension Centre, so it will be necessary to add security and many other elements to present a special edition for the 75th anniversary of the Lobster Festival.

Several council members want to congratulate the Festival organization on their efforts to offer a special edition of the Lobster Festival.

Councillor Janice Cormier asked about the parking issue, given that the main parking lot would be used for the big tent. Mr. Haché indicates that negotiations are underway with locations around town and that even shuttle services are part of the plan, but that it's too early to announce anything.

Patricia Bourque-Chevarie asks if the admission price to the Festival will remain the same, i.e. \$5. Julie Arsenault says yes.

Councillor Murray Lloyd asks if the committee is comfortable with the amount requested? He wants to know if this is really the last funding request. Mr. Haché says they are very comfortable with the amount of money requested.

Deputy Mayor Sylvie Colette-Boudreau wonders what happens if it rains for three consecutive days and the shows are cancelled. Pascal Haché points out that the tent chosen allows the shows to be presented regardless of the weather.

7. Reading of correspondence

7.1 Creation of a nature park (Kim Murphy)

CAO, Victor Boudreau, reports that the town has received a letter from Mrs. Kim Murphy and other signatories recommending the development of a nature park within the boundaries of the Town of Shediac. The municipality already has this type of project in development.

7.2 Request for crossing guard in Shediac Cape

CAO Victor Boudreau reports that the municipality has received a letter from Shediac Cape School Principal Cathy Lloyd requesting that a crossing guard be hired to ensure the safety of students crossing Route 134 in front of the school. Mr. Boudreau states that the municipality will study the situation and provide a recommendation to council.

8. Reports from Standing and Special Committees

8.1 Various Financial Reports

8.2 Protective Services

8.2.1 Police

8.2.2 Fire

The monthly statistics report for January 2024 are distributed for information purposes.

Councillor Paul Boudreau asks if tenders will soon be called for the fire hall project. Robert McEwen says that the plans are about to be completed, and then they can start the process. Mr. Boudreau asks if the same applies to the ladder truck. Victor Boudreau suggests that it is. Fire Chief Donald Cormier is finalizing the details for the ladder truck.

8.3

9. Report from the Chief Administrative Officer

Mr. Boudreau presents his report. He indicated that a delegation from the municipality was in Fredericton on January 25-26 for the State of the Province Address. They took the opportunity to meet a number of ministers and senior civil servants. Meetings were held with the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure to discuss the Scoudouc Industrial Park project. The town also met with the Minister of the Regional Development Corporation to discuss the net zero project, the 75th anniversary of the Lobster Festival and Shediac's infrastructure needs to accommodate development within the municipality. We also met with the Minister of Education and his team to discuss the future K-12 English school. Finally, we met with New Brunswick Power and Siemens Canada to discuss the Net Zero project and the Shediac Smart Community project.

Mr. Boudreau adds that a consultant has been contracted to develop the Town of Shediac's new strategic plan. Ben Champoux of Champoux Inc. will work with all stakeholders.

We recently had very good discussions with Plan 360 regarding the renewal of Shediac's municipal plan. After an assessment by their team, they'll be starting the revision sooner than expected. In the same file, we'll need to update several components, including the master storm sewer plan, which needs to be done for the first time. The transportation plan and the recreational facilities plan also need to be developed.

As for the new recreation center project, we've begun working with a consultant who in the past worked directly on the Uniplex recreation center project at our neighbors in Dieppe, Mr. Luc Bujold. He will help us prepare our project so that we are in a good position to present our application in the next round of funding.

Councillor Émile O'Brien asks if a site has been chosen for the new recreation center and if Luc Bujold will help develop the entire project. Victor Boudreau clarifies that several sites had been identified to house this center, as it is a very large site that will include a pool, a walking track, a new ice surface with the possibility of adding a second one, and a gymnasium. He also explains that the reason for hiring Mr. Bujold to prepare this project is simple: since our discussions with federal and provincial officials indicated that the Dieppe project had been very well prepared and responded very well to government directives, we decided to work with someone who was directly involved in the Dieppe process. This will give us a good process to follow to ensure the success of our project.

10. Recommendations from Plan 360

10.1 Bylaw Z-14-44-55Z

The municipal council needs to decide whether the project of rezoning to R3 to allow three 12-unit dwellings for a total of 36 units on rue Bellevue Heights should go ahead, require further details, or be rejected.

Moved By: Janice Cormier

Seconded By: Paul Boudreau

WHEREAS Council has received a request from Guy Cormier to amend By-law Z-14-44 entitled "Shediac Zoning By-law" in order to change the zoning of property bearing identification number 70685078 from Medium Density Residential (R2) to High Density Residential Zone (R3);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council review the application to determine whether it is in the public interest to amend the zoning by-law;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Clerk, in the name and on behalf of Council, request the opinion of the Planning Review and Adjustment Committee under Section 110 of the Community Planning Act by March 11, 2024, in order to receive such opinion;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Clerk, in the name and on behalf of Council, be responsible to published within the time prescribed by Section 111 of the Community Planning Act, the public notice relating to the adoption of such by-law and that the public hearing be set for March 18, 2024 at 6 pm in the Council Chamber to hear objections to the proposed by-law.

MOTION CARRIED

11. Unfinished Business

11.1 Recommendation - Giant Lobster

The town CAO Victor Boudreau explains that organizations in the municipality were approached to find out their positions on having the giant lobster painted blue. In addition, the Town of Shediac also held a survey to find out the opinions of residents and people who follow the municipality's Facebook page.

Councillor Roland Cormier points out that the population has spoken and must be listened to, but encourages the administration to be clearer the next time we conduct a survey.

Councillor Joël Després asks if we have received any costs for painting the lobster. Victor Boudreau replied that \$7,500 had been budgeted to maintain the giant lobster. Community Life Director Julie Bélanger indicated that it would cost about the same to repaint the lobster.

Councillor Peter Breau points out that the giant lobster has become a trademark for the town of Shediac, and people identify Shediac with the

giant lobster. He doesn't think it's a good idea to paint it another color like blue.

Councillor Émile O'Brien points out that Downtown Shediac Centre-ville is completely opposed to this request, and the Greater Shediac Chamber of Commerce has indicated that a promotional budget of \$25,000 would be required to promote this initiative.

Councillor Harry McInroy believes that painting the lobster blue could set a precedent for other causes to ask to paint the lobster to help promote their causes. He believes that the image that the giant lobster represents for the town of Shediac should not be toyed with.

11.2 Municipal Plan Review

Councillor Harry McInroy reports that last spring, the municipal council recommended the hiring of an urban planner to speed up the process of updating Shediac's municipal plan. Initially, Plan 360 was unable to address Shediac's plan until 2026. Since that time, Plan 360 has re-evaluated its workload and has been able to free up a resource to work directly on the Shediac municipal plan.

Moved By: Harry McInroy

Seconded By: Janice Cormier

Whereas in June 2023, Plan 360's schedule did not address the update of Shediac's Municipal Development Plan (MDP) until 2026, Council directed staff to explore the option of contracting out Urban Planner services to expedite the update of Shediac's MDP and;

Whereas Plan 360, as a result, amended its work plan to commence the update of Shediac's MDP starting in January 2024;

Therefore be it resolved that Council withdraw the June 26, 2023, Urban Planner directive to staff, and accept and support Plan 360's revised schedule to undertake the updating of Shediac's MDP commencing in January 2024.

MOTION CARRIED

12. Introduction of new Business

13. Inquiries by members of Council

Councillor Jean-Claude Bertin suggests that citizens have asked him if it would be possible to place the pedestrian lights a little lower than they are at present. For example, on Main Street, when motorists are near the lights, they can't see them. Also, in the Cornwall Point area, residents are asking if it would be possible to install an emergency exit on the curve near the Highway 15 exit, to prevent all residents from using Main Street to exit this area. There is only one exit.

Councillor Paul Boudreau wants to know when the call for tenders will go out for the Main Street upgrade project. Robert McEwen says the project is progressing well and the bidding process is due to start at the end of February. Mr. Boudreau wonders about the project on St-Joseph Street, and if things are progressing? General Manager Victor Boudreau indicates that the Shediac Legion now owns the land and the process is ongoing. Paul Boudreau says it would be a good idea to invite MP Jacques LeBlanc to speak to Council members in the near future. Mayor Roger Caissie indicated that Mr. LeBlanc was present at the meeting and that a follow-up would be made. Finally, Paul Boudreau would like to know if the purchase of land for trail development with APASOA and possibly the creation of a nature park has been finalized. General Manager Victor Boudreau confirmed that the land now belongs to the Town of Shediac.

Councillor Murray Lloyd suggests that many business people are concerned about the Main Street project next summer. They'd like to know the details sooner rather than later. Robert McEwen points out that a team from the administration is working on a communication plan and on information sessions with business people first. The first meetings are scheduled for the coming weeks.

Councillor Patricia Bourque-Chevarie wonders if the residents' file on Christian Street will eventually come to an end. Victor Boudreau points out that the city has done everything it was supposed to do, and the lawyers have the documents in their hands. A follow-up will still be carried out.

Councillor Janice Cormier wonders if the summer work on Main Street is still scheduled to possibly stop during the festival and tourist seasons. Robert McEwen explains that the plan will take these periods into consideration, and that the traffic plan will also help limit disruption.

14. Introduction and reading of By-Laws

15. Motions and Resolutions

15.1 Funding request - Lobster Festival

Deputy Mayor Sylvie Colette-Boudreau asked that the \$150,000 be divided into two amounts in the motion, as the initial request stipulated \$50,000 to embellish the downtown area during the summer period and \$100,000 for logistics. The deputy mayor clarified that the \$50,000 to embellish the downtown area would be added to the town's budget, and the municipality would keep the promotional tools that would be purchased to enhance the municipality's image during the summer season and the Lobster Festival. This amendment was accepted.

Moved By: Patricia Bourque-Chevarie

Seconded By: Émile O'Brien

BE IT RESOLVED that the municipal council grant an additional \$150,000 to cover additional logistical and programming needs. These funds will come from account 1-28253 Projets spéciaux du Conseil.

Amendment:

Moved By: Patricia Bourque-Chevarie

Seconded By: Émile O'Brien

BE IT RESOLVED that the municipal council grant an additional \$100,000 to the Lobster Festival to cover additional logistical needs from account 1-28253 Projets spéciaux du Conseil, and that an amount of \$50,000 be added to account 1-26195 Centreville - Fleurs et embellissement to embellish the municipality's downtown area during the Festival.

MOTION CARRIED

15.2 Roads of Pointe-du-Chêne (Harry McInroy)

Councillor Harry McInroy clarifies that the purpose of this motion is, of course, first to investigate, evaluate and report to Council on the financial and other issues related to the Town of Shediac's assumption of responsibility for basic maintenance of private roads in Pointe-du-Chêne. In this way, members of council will be informed before any major decisions are made. He adds that other private roads in other areas of the municipality could benefit in the future from the findings and information gained from this initiative.

Councillor Paul Boudreau supports this motion and indicates that he would like to sit on a committee with Councillor McInroy. Councillor Murray Lloyd representing Shediac Cape is interested as well.

Councillor Roland Cormier wonders if the residents of Pointe-du-Chêne are in favour of paying more to ensure better maintenance of the roads in their area? Councillor Harry McInroy explains that even though Pointe-du-Chêne residents pay significant sums of money to the province, the services offered by the province do not meet the citizens' investment. He adds that residents don't want an upgrade, only well-maintained roads.

Moved By: Harry McInroy

Seconded By: Paul Boudreau

Whereas the Community of Pointe-du-Chêne, home of Parlee Beach and Pointe-du-Chêne Wharf, major economic generators for the Town of Shediac and the Province of New Brunswick, was amalgamated to the Town of Shediac in January 2023, as Ward 2 Shediac, and;

Whereas the private roads in Pointe-du-Chêne have historically, for several decades, received some semblance of road maintenance from the New Brunswick government, currently the NB Department of Transportation and Infrastructure, and;

Whereas the maintenance services currently provided by NBDTI are inconsistent, and inadequate, and;

Whereas the residents and taxpayers of Pointe-du-Chêne overwhelmingly support that its Shediac Town Council seek a remedy to the current unacceptable road maintenance situation in Ward 2;

Therefore be it resolved that Council authorize the Mayor and staff of the Town of Shediac to investigate, evaluate and report back to Council on financial and other related issues associated with having the provision of basic private road maintenance in Pointe-du-Chêne assumed by the Town of Shediac.

MOTION CARRIED

15.3 Evaluate Incentive programs (Roland Cormier)

According to Councillor Roland Cormier, this policy simply needs to be updated to encourage economic development, while ensuring that there aren't too many loopholes in the way the policy is written and administered.

Councillor Patricia Bourque-Chevarie wonders if this can be achieved before the 2024 construction season? Danny Pellerin, Director of Economic Development and Tourism, points out that when the revised policy comes into effect, the new policy will be applied to all building permits issued.

Peter Breau nevertheless urges the municipality to be cautious. This policy has had a very positive effect on Shediac's economic development, and we must not lose sight of its main objective, which is to encourage development and increase the number of building permits granted in Shediac.

Moved By: Roland Cormier

Seconded By: Joël Despres

Whereas the policy 12-09 and 13-06 were last studied June 24, 2019,

Whereas there was a municipal reform in 2023

Whereas the town of Shediac is recording a historical increase of building permits in the past years.

Be it resolved that council mandates the Economic Development committee and staff to look at policy 12-09 and 13-06 to evaluate the validity of these policies, modified them and report back to council before the 2024 construction season so that citizens of the town are aware of the changes.

MOTION CARRIED

15.4 Environmental Committee (Roland Cormier)

Moved By: Roland Cormier
Seconded By: Germaine Gallant

WHEREAS a committee of citizens made a presentation to council in November 2023 asking the town of Shediac to implement a by-law to regulate pesticides usage on lawns ;

WHEREAS in 2002 the town of Shediac had implemented a by-law regulating the usage of pesticides, but that by-law was revoked when the government of New Brunswick implemented a provincial law in 2009.

BE IT RESOLVED that council create an environmental committee at the regular meeting on March 4, 2024, to make recommendations to council on the use of pesticides on lawns in the town of Shediac and report back before June 1st 2024.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that this committee be composed of members of Council, the administration and citizens of Shediac.

MOTION CARRIED

15.5 Sidewalks in Shediac Cape (Murray Lloyd)

Councillor Paul Boudreau wonders who will be responsible for evaluating this project and its costs. The CAO indicates that consultants will have to be called in. Councillor Boudreau wonders if it is possible to obtain provincial assistance for this type of work. The CAO points out that the Town submits its list of priorities to the department of Transportation and Infrastructure every year, so yes, it is possible to apply to the government to see if there is funding available, and this project will examine just that.

Moved By: Murray Lloyd
Seconded By: Harry McInroy

WHEREAS the safety of the citizens of the Town of Shediac is a priority for the Municipal Council;

WHEREAS in recent years, the municipality has prioritized the installation of sidewalks in the majority of new projects and has also encouraged the addition of sidewalks on certain streets to ensure pedestrian accessibility;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the administration of the Town of Shediac be mandated to investigate the feasibility of installing sidewalks on one side of Hanington Road and Route 134 in the Shediac Cape area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these sidewalks extend from the old boundary between Shediac and Shediac Cape to the new boundary of Shediac on Route 134.

MOTION CARRIED

15.6 Hiring of Consultants - Storm sewer master plan

Councillor Roland Cormier wondered why the bids received varied so much in terms of total amount. The director of Municipal Operations and Engineering Robert McEwen points out that some companies already have a good knowledge of the Town of Shediac's facilities, so the fact that they already know some of the work to be done probably allows them to lower their price.

Moved By: Sylvie Collette-Boudreau

Seconded By: Jean-Claude Bertin

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED to award the engineering for the storm sewer master plan to Englobe Corp. for a value of \$138,905.82 (Net HST included). Funds will come from account 1-23018 TP Engineering Services.

MOTION CARRIED

16. Appointments to Committees

17. Adjournment

Councillor Germaine Gallant moves to adjourn the meeting around 8:20 pm.

Roger Caissie, Mayor

Sylvain Montreuil, Clerk