

Town Council Meeting, July 9, 2024

In the absence of two council members, a brief meeting was held in the council chambers on July 9, 2024, with Mayor Muirhead in the chair, and Councilors Anderson and Rea. Also present were Youth Councilor Downey and CAO Stephenson. The meeting started a bit early at 6:55, and an abbreviated agenda was passed.

Planning Matters:

Council appointed two building inspectors for the Cypress Planning District, Alex Campbell as Part III Building Inspector and Mentor, and Rachel Andrews as Part IX Building Inspector.

Finance and Accounts:

Council accepted the report of ACAO McConnell as presented, approved the June Financial Statement and Bank Reconciliation, and approved for payment a total of \$422,914.04 in cheques and direct withdrawals.

Unfinished Business:

Work to get the memorial site ready for its August unveiling is well in hand. The concrete work has been scheduled, the trees are sourced, the benches are sourced and getting their engraving. It is confirmed that the premier will attend, and invitations have been sent to Dauphin for spokespersons and attendees. It is intended that the ceremony will take place at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday August 11. Seating and parking will be provided, with members of the Austin Fire Department invited to take over some support duties that the Carberry-NCL firefighters won't be able to cover as they are part of the ceremony.

As suggested at the Joint Councils' meeting, three billboards are planned for the highway approaches to town. The landowner of the spot to the east of town is being contacted, the ones to the north and west will be renewed and permits will be applied for from Manitoba Infrastructure and Transport. Once granted, the work will go to tender.

General Business:

There will be an open house at the Community Hall to present and discuss the plans for the intersection of Highways 1 & 5. It will take place on July 16 from 6:30 to 8:00 in the evening.

Council added a defaulted invoice to the tax roll of the defaulter.

Reports:

Youth Councilor Downey reported that the Graduation Ceremonies had successfully taken place on June 26, and the Awards for the lower grades were handed out on June 27. Reports are out, and school is out.

The CAO, with the ACAO, attended a webinar on Finance Best Practises from MMA. A productive meeting with PMH gives hope of continuing cooperation. The CAO met with the Associate Dean of U of M's college of Medicine Satellite Program about placements at Carberry's hospital, and possible teaching hospital status in future. He will need to retain an arborist to develop the plan for the restoration of Carberry's canopy to submit to the Green Municipal Fund before October 15.

The EDO has been advancing the branding project with a bus bench in Brandon and highway billboards at the approaches to town. These will require renegotiating with the landowners involved and then applying to MIT for permission. Flowers for the town planters were sourced from Sprucedale in Austin and planted by volunteers. The old Christmas light frames are being upgraded by a summer student to LED lighting. Three Carberry nominees received awards at the Westman Tourism Gala. She is standing for Secretary of Tourism Westman for a second term. The Chamber of Commerce is flourishing — they took part in the Fair Parade and will redo the 'welcome' sign near Home Hardware in time for Homecoming. They plan a trade show/career day in November and a range of activities during December. The HAC has more than \$120,000 in funds raised and is involved in recruitment of health care providers for the community. The New Daycare Committee has named officers and set up subcommittees. They now have an email address and plans for several fundraising events. The EDO has reached out to Swan Lake First Nation to discuss partnerships on future projects, so far without response. She is working with private investors on several projects, including housing, private daycare, and the repurposing of Shannon's building.

The Fire Department's Texas Breakfast was a huge success, netting over \$14,000. They plan a street party on the Friday of Homecoming to celebrate their 125th year of service.

Demolition is well underway at the old town shop at last. Construction of the building at the Transfer Station is also underway.

The Arts Council's children's craft at the Texas Breakfast was a success and well attended. Their plans for the fall are in preparation.

The Cemetery is welcoming volunteers to assist with the necessary weeding. Repairs to the windmill are under way, and the costs have been covered by donations.

The museum is open for the season, and work has started on the outdoor display structure.

The new Handivan is ordered, with delivery anticipated in January of 2025.

The Rec Board has been gearing up for the U13 provincial ball tournament. A new, larger sign for the west side of the CPCC should be installed shortly. The post of Director of Leisure Services has been filled; her name is Nishelle Clow. Work on the new campsite continues.

Communications:

Manitoba Municipal and Northern Relations advised of a review of planning legislation.

Manitoba Environment and Climate sent a summary of municipal rebates under the Waste Reduction and Recycling Support [WRARS] program. Carberry is to receive \$7,752.27 in consideration of reporting 30Kg of recycling per capita. The provincial average is 20Kg.

WMRL sent the draft minutes of their June meeting.

Manitoba Municipal and Northern Relations sent word of Carberry's 2024 Municipal Operating Grant of \$244,962.10. A first payment of \$183,721.58 is 75% of the total, with the remainder to be distributed in September.

Around the Table:

Mayor Muirhead reported that he had driven a car in the Fair Parade, which he found extensive and varied. He attended the Western District meeting of AMM with CAO Stephenson. With Deputy Mayor Kalinowich and Councilor van Kommer of NCL, he served hot dogs on Canada Day to a smaller turnout than expected. He had a meeting with Mike Labelle over the property at 33 Main Street; Mike will attend the next council meeting. He delivered the greetings of the Town to the graduates at Carberry Collegiate.

Councilor Rea gave kudos to the Ag Society for a lively and welcoming fair. Apparently, the coincidence of the car show at the casino served to bring many out-of-town visitors to both events.

With that, Council went *in camera* to discuss personnel matters, and emerged to adjourn at 9:27 PM.