

Town Council, August 13, 2024

The Council of the Town of Carberry met on Tuesday, August 14, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers with Mayor Muirhead in the chair and all members present. Also present were CAO Stephenson, Youth Councilor Downey, and Youth Councilor Elect Boganés.

Finance and Accounts:

Council accepted the report of ACAO McConnell and the Financial Statement and Bank Reconciliation for July 2024. They therefore approved accounts and direct withdrawals totalling \$342,976.29 for payment.

By-laws:

Pursuant to the delegation that approached the Joint Councils, Council discussed the advisability and practicality of a by-law to ban the use of engine retarder brakes within the town. They agreed that the noise was unacceptable and noted that most towns have such by-laws in place and signed at the town limits. Though the worst offenders are most often on the highway, and therefore beyond the Town's jurisdiction, there is no reason to allow the annoyance in town. Enforcement, as with all local legislation, is a difficulty. There are, however, by-law officers, motor carrier enforcement, and the RCMP to provide teeth to the ban once it is in place. Council asked the CAO to draft an appropriate by-law for the next meeting.

By-law 06/2024, which amends the Town of Carberry Traffic By-law, was given its first two readings. The amendments deal with additional parking bans, one along the north side of First Avenue from Ottawa Street to a point further west, and one banning parking on the east side of Market Street from First Avenue to Fourth Avenue.

Unfinished Business:

Responding to the request for stakeholder response to the MTI's design study for the intersection of Highways 1 & 5, Council discussed the alternative intersection types presented. Without exception, each councillor's first choice was an overpass or "grade separation," which was listed among the "other intersection types." It is understood that this is the most expensive alternative, and as such may not be considered for an installation that is being proposed as a model for all such intersections in the province. Nevertheless, it would be seen as a committed approach to highway safety. The second choice of most councillors was the roundabout,

with the proviso that it be of sufficient diameter to be safe for the longest of highway transports.

Council appointed Krister Boganes as Youth Councilor for a two-year term.

General Business:

Council made some changes to the 2024 Assessment Roll, adding \$31,572.96 in taxes and deleting \$5,028.36 of taxes for a net added tax of \$26,544.60.

With the tax auction coming up in the fall, Council discussed their options for the sale, choosing finally to put a reserve bid on each property on sale consisting (as the Municipal Act requires) of the tax arrears and costs. If there is no bid higher, the Town will take ownership of the property. A motion was passed to that effect.

AMM's insurance program points out the advantages of having outside users of municipal facilities get insured for their use of them. The insurer makes outside user coverage inexpensive and easily accessible. Council agreed with the insurer and asked the CAO to prepare a regulation for the next meeting requiring outside users to be covered.

Now that the old, condemned shop has been demolished, the question of what to do with the space remains. The end of the property nearest the fire hall contains an underground reservoir of water which has many uses besides the firefighting for which it was set up. It will require insulation and heat in winter to keep from freezing. It has been suggested that the two-bay insulated garage located to the west be moved onto the site and given over to storage for the Fire Department. The cost of moving is well under the cost of building new, though the nature of the site and its reservoir may present engineering difficulties to prepare a pad for it. Another consideration is that it should look as though it is a part of the larger adjacent facility. Exterior cladding should make that possible. Since the work is for the joint fire department, NCL can be asked to share the costs of site preparation, moving, and cladding.

The highway signs advertising the Town are in process. Talks with the appropriate landlords and applications to MTI are under way. Each application costs \$500. The design of the signs has been settled, and the overall costs should be around \$11,000.00, which would be split 50/50 with North Cypress-Langford.

In consideration of the MMA conference which will take the CAO and ACAO away from September 9-11, the September meeting will be postponed to Monday, September 16.

Reports:

Outgoing Youth Councilor Downey in his final report of his term of office, reported that Grad 2025 clothing has been ordered and will be available as term starts. The Grade 5 incoming class to CC will be given an advance welcome and orientation before term starts.

The Economic Development Officer's branding project proceeds. Wayfinding signs will shortly be going up on First Avenue opposite the schoolyard. She is looking to advertise at the arena in Portage. A bus bench is placed on Richmond Avenue in Brandon at the south entrance to the Keystone Centre. Clothing with the new Carberry brand can be obtained at the Town Office.

The Fire Department is concentrating on its 125th anniversary street party, which will take place on Friday, August 23, and for which the block of Main Street between Third and Fourth Avenues will be closed until the wee hours of August 24.

It is generally agreed that the new building at the transfer station is appropriate and well made. A good job by the designers and the builders. The structure in the CP park still needs its fascia but is looking good. The sign at the hall is installed and looking appropriate, and the generator is in place and ready to be commissioned shortly. The new signage at the CPCC is a real improvement and presents a good image to the Wellwood Road by which visitors to the town usually enter.

Evergreen has increased the tipping fees for one customer by 20% because of the speed with which the first cell has been filling; a new cell will be needed sooner than anticipated. The fee for contaminated recycling has been raised to \$250/tonne, largely to avoid problems from the same customer, but applicable to municipal recycling if it is misused. A list of what is acceptable recycling may need to be put on the website and/or on the tax notices. The bins at the east end of the hall have been attracting more than just the business garbage for which they were placed there. It may be necessary to remove them or replace them with lockable bins to keep them free of unwanted contributions.

The cemetery is looking particularly good. Its windmill should be delivered this fall.

The Museum's outdoor display enclosure is built. They intend to have a photo booth with heritage elements for the Homecoming.

The Drop-In's new air conditioning is working well. The new handivan is ordered. The drop-in board would like a council member to attend their board meetings to keep them in touch with their landlord, and pass on the requests of the senior population.

The Health Action Committee was informed of the renovations planned by the hospital and long-term care facility. Their most serious concern is staffing shortages, particularly nurses. They discussed incentive programs available to students considering a health care career. The CEO of the region has allowed them to announce that they can expect good news in the near future.

Kelly Hofer has been appointed by NCL as citizen representative on the Recreation Board.

An additional report will be regularly presented, this one from the Daycare Committee. They have just done a golf tournament fundraiser, and are looking to have a booth at the Homecoming to sell the opportunity to put a pie in the face of some prominent officials. Volunteers from the council would be welcome; some are already signed up. The committee is made up of committed volunteers and has been doing an excellent job.

Communications:

The Minister of Municipal and Northern Relations advised that the final payment of \$16,652.06 from the Mobility Disadvantaged Transportation Program 2023 operating grant will shortly be paid. This is to assist with the Handivan program.

AMM, on behalf of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada, outlines the federal Green and Inclusive Community Buildings program which funds retrofits, repairs or upgrades to community buildings.

Landmark Planning sent the full PowerPoint presentation made as part of the public meeting to discuss the intersection of Highways 1 & 5.

The RCMP sent their quarterly report and statistics.

A letter was received from Fred de Wind requesting that a ramp, comparable to the one at the Drop-In, be placed at the Super Thrifty to enable

wheelchairs, scooters and walkers to cross between the two without being forced to go to the end of the block. Council discussed the suggestion, noting that if a crossing were to be created, there are a number of requirements to be met, including signage and lights. Anything less would be considered hazardous.

Around the Table:

Mayor Muirhead had a resident bring to his attention the use of electric golf carts as a green energy project in Carman, and wondered if this was a viable proposition. The present regulations for Off-Road Vehicles (ORVs) do not blend well with the normal flow of traffic. Too many changes would be required. He had noticed that Moosomin, SK is offering an incentive of \$30,000 to build a house in their town. The idea seems to suggest desperation. At the HAC meeting, one of the PMH representatives detailed incentives that are being offered to encourage students to take up careers in health care, particularly nurses, though many other specialties are possible. He suggested that the Youth Councilor(s) take the information back and get it spread through the school and offered at the career fair. There are also several bursaries offered at graduation to those entering the health care field. Muirhead also mentioned some derelict mobile homes on Market Street and suggested that the process of getting them moved be started.

Deputy Mayor Kalinowich noted that he has seen more and more people failing to stop at stop signs or yield at yield signs. Councilor Sudak suggested that people who spot this sort of behaviour take pictures, get license plates and preferably a record of who the driver is, and forward them to the RCMP. If sufficient complaints are heard, it may prompt a blitz by the RCMP and some consequences. Kalinowich went on to congratulate the firefighters on the work done to prepare for the unveiling of the June 15/23 monument that took place this past Sunday. He asked who will maintain the monument and trees from here forward and was assured that the staff will be proud to maintain it.

Councilor Anderson also offered congratulations on the excellent unveiling ceremony and the work done to prepare the memorial. He has been past the monument at night and the lights were on and looked good.

Councilor Rea asked if the cement bench outside Offbeat 'n' Antiques belonged to the Town; it is crumbling, and in need of replacement or retirement. She also asked what was happening to the demolished house

lot on Fourth Avenue, and was told that though it hasn't yet happened, there is a plan and permit for a multi-family building to be built on the site. Though it is presently unsightly and dangerous, it should soon be improved. Rea also echoed the congratulations on the ceremony on August 11 and echoed the praise and thanks for the first responders.

Councilor Sudak also gave kudos to the organizers of the August 11 ceremony, and echoed Kalinowich's concerns about bad and dangerous driving, not just of cars but of ORVs and dirt bikes. He reminded again that detailed complaints with pictures and plate numbers will help get the attention of the police on these drivers.

CAO Stephenson wished to thank the members of the Council who were all present for the ceremony on August 11. The level of community support was gratifying to the firefighters and the organizers.

Youth Councilor Downey noted that this would be his last meeting, and he wished to thank the Council for their support and for the amount he has learned in his tenure. In return he was thanked and congratulated on his work sharing school and council news back and forth. Thanks, and congratulations on a job well done, and best of luck in future endeavours.

With that, council went *in camera* to discuss preliminary matters and adjourned at 9:15.