



## Municipality of French River

### MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

held in the Council Chambers  
French River Municipal Complex  
Tuesday, November 24, 2015 at 9am

#### **Members Present:**

Mayor Claude Bouffard(Chair), Councillors Michel Bigras, Ronald Garbutt, Malcolm Lamothe, Gisèle Pageau, Denny Sharp,

#### **Members Excused:**

Councillor Dean Wenborne

#### **Officials Present:**

John Regan, Chief Administrative Officer  
Mélanie Bouffard, Clerk  
Arthur Smith, Treasurer/Tax Collector  
Robert Martin, Parks, Recreation & Facilities Manager  
Michael Campbell, Chief Building Official  
Greg Darby, Director of Operations  
Bruneau Michel, Lead Hand, Public Works Department  
Michelle Clark, Public Works & Environmental Administrative Assistant  
Trista Verbiwski, Manager of Economic Development and Tourism

#### **Guests:**

2 Guests

#### **1. Call to order, roll call and adoption of the agenda**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9am.

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Moved By Ron Garbutt and Seconded By Gisèle Pageau

Resol. 2015- 358

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the agenda be accepted as distributed and amended to add:

Delegation from MP Marc Serré

Carried

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#### **2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest**

Councillor Michel Bigras declared a pecuniary interest for items relating to the Fire Department; his son is a Captain for the French River Fire Department.

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### **3. Presentation and deliberation of Draft 2016 Budget**

Parks, Recreation and Facilities at 9am.

- 37 St. Antoine property operating costs and feasibility will be reviewed to justify its sale or retention

- vacant position could remain vacant in order to reduce the human resources budget if deemed appropriate and feasible by management

- drainage works project at the Municipal Complex could be extended another year, the air will be tested for quality, the repair works will be reevaluated subsequent to the test

#### **Delegation - MP Marc Serré**

Mr. Serré was present to meet Council for the first time since the November Federal Election.

Mr. Serré stated that he understands the needs of small northern municipalities; he shared his intention of continually staying in contact with Municipalities to ensure that priorities of his riding are captured and to provide support. The riding offices are currently being set up in Sturgeon Falls and in Val Caron.

Council offered a few ideas on priorities and needs in our area such as senior housing, an English primary school, funding opportunities for municipalities under 5,000 in population, better notice and deadlines of funding opportunities and increased internet speed/ broadband strategy.

Council also suggested that a communication tool/method be developed for his office to communicate with Councils for items relevant to Municipalities such as updates, notices, information and funding opportunities.

Break from 10am to 10:20am

The CAO reported that the Budget Timeline had been established with the goal to approve the 2016 Budget in December and that Council had agreed to prolong the budget process timeline to allow more time to review and study the draft document. The proposed November 30<sup>th</sup> public meeting to present the draft budget was cancelled and will be rescheduled for the end of January 2016.

CBO/ Bylaw at 10:30am.

Administration & Fire Department at 10:40am.

- Councillor Michel Bigras excused himself from the conversation relating to the Fire Department.

Michel Bigras presided as Chair to allow the Mayor to participate in the debate of the Council's Per Diem budget line discussion.

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Council requested the Treasurer to prepare a list of contingencies and the total amount.

Lunch Break at 12pm

Public Works & Environmental Department at 1pm.

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Moved By Denny Sharp and Seconded By Gisèle Pageau

Resol. 2015- 359

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council move into a closed meeting pursuant to section 239 (2) (b) of the Municipal Act, 2001 as amended for the purpose of a matter that would identify municipal employees and that the meeting is to be closed pursuant to the said subsection.

Carried

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Moved By Ron Garbutt and Seconded By Gisèle Pageau

Resol. 2015- 360

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the open session reconvenes at 2:04p.m.

Carried

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The Mayor reported that direction was given to the CAO to not fill the Accounting Assistant position to temporarily reduce the human resources budget if deemed appropriate and feasible by management; tasks to be redistributed.

Break 2:10 to 2:15pm.

Economic Development at 2:15pm - discussion deferred to next budget meeting.

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Moved By Ron Garbutt and Seconded By Malcolm Lamothe

Resol. 2015- 361

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the special meeting be adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Carried

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**MAYOR**

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**CLERK**