



Municipality of French River

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL held in the Council Chambers French River Municipal Complex Wednesday, February 17, 2016 at 6 pm

Members Present:

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

Members Excused:

Officials Present:

John Regan, Chief Administrative Officer
Mélanie Bouffard, Clerk
Arthur Smith, Treasurer/Tax Collector
Greg Darby, Director of Operations
Denis Séguin, Fire Chief
Robert Martin, Parks, Recreation & Facilities Manager
Carlie Zwiers, Executive Assistant

Guests:

60 Members of the public (approx.)

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

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6pm.

Moved By Gisèle Pageau and Seconded By Ron Garbutt

Resol. 2016- 55

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the special agenda be accepted as distributed and amended:

To add the following Items:

Alter Meeting Schedule before item 3.0

Announcement and Inquiries before item 3.0

Carried

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

None declared.

Meeting Schedule

The next meeting is scheduled for February 24 during the ROMA/OGRA Conference week which most Members of Council are attending.

Moved By Denny Sharp and Seconded By Gisèle Pageau

Resol. 2016- 56

BE IT RESOLVED THAT that Council cancels the Council Meeting scheduled for February 24 and allows four (4) delegations to be placed on the agenda scheduled on March 9, 2016.

Carried

Announcement and Inquiries

The Mayor stated that the Announcement and Inquiries section was not common for Special Meetings. However, since the agenda items attracted a large crowd that it was important to give the opportunity to the members of the public to express their views and ask questions to Council. A maximum of 1 minute per person was allowed for a total period of 20 minutes.

Immediate answers may not be provided, however, questions and comments will be noted and every attempt will be made to follow up with responses. Depending on the amount and nature of questions, responses could be provided at a later Council Meeting.

To ensure meeting decorum and to make sure the speakers were heard, the Mayor asked that everyone remain respectful towards Council, staff and to the members of the public.

John Rudzinski, Alban, commented that the budget and increases are out of control and questioned if the Municipality had a long term financial plan to stop increases.

Cody Raymond, Alban, child who participates in the programming, suggested that Council invest in the kids of this community by keeping the programs, the kids are the future tax payers who will stay here, will take care of those paying taxes now, they will grow here and later have families and open businesses, losing the programs would make the kids unhappy which in turn would make their parents unhappy, as children they are taught to respect decision of parents and others but they hope that Council will make the right decision to keep the programs.

Jeff Grieve, Noëlville, commented that the residents pay high taxes with no services, that the increases are out of control every year and questioned how long the increases are going to go on and if there was a financial plan.

Rolly Bertrand, Monetville, commented that the last meeting he attended that Council was progressive and looking forward and that by cancelling the programming that it is backward thinking, Council should be investing in our youth and plan for the future.

Frank Mueck, Noëlville, commented that Council should create fiscal restraints, be proactive and create an environment that residents can trust and where people want to move to and stay and questioned if the hockey team was a sound decision for our area.

Baily Raymond, Alban, child who participates in the programming, pleaded Council to keep the amazing programs and that it makes her sad that Council wants to take away all the fun and to please make the right decision to keep the programs.

Sue Crane, lodge owner, was approved to give a delegation opposing the cuts to the tourism position and programs at the last meeting and did not receive a response to her questions and highlighted that current programs have been committed and requires responses in the next few days. The CAO informed her that her questions were answered by email earlier that day and to contact him to discuss the current commitments.

Mary Palmer, lodge owner and member of the French River Resorts Association, informed that there are provincial funding opportunities for tourism initiatives that could be overlooked. The CAO suggested that they get in touch to discuss the opportunities and anticipated partnership with the association.

Mike Bouffard, entrepreneur in Noëlville since 1967 started by selling frogs to the tourism industry which is still important today, tourism employs the youth, highlighted that there were a lot of people at the meeting who support the programs and positions and suggested to Council to amend the Notice of Motion being considered later to add the tourism position and programs.

Susan Pockele, realtor and parent in Noëlville, commented that as a realtor that she gets questioned about what makes our community great, she used to answer very easily but questioned how she was to sell this community to young families who are looking for children programming, and that she needs to sell to families not only retirees.

Grace Johnson, Alban, commented to the Mayor's comments about municipal services and that she disagreed that they receive ambulance services as they are pretty far in a side road that is not accessible and suitable by emergency vehicles (ambulance and fire), had owned her property on the lake for the past 40 years and that taxes keep increasing and that she might not be able to keep it up and that there are no fiscal restraints from this Council.

Marianne Schwendener, Alban, had made a delegation opposing the cuts to community development position and programs at the last meeting, commented that the parents are ready to work with council to form a partnership to continue the programming at a mutual capacity.

3.0 Notice of Motion - Community Development Position and Programs Submitted by Councillor Denny Sharp

Moved By Denny Sharp and Seconded By Ron Garbutt

Resol. 2016- 57

WHEREAS there has been broad, significant public response as the result of the recent announcement to terminate the position of Community Development Officer in the Municipality of French River; and

WHEREAS the public of French River has made it very clear that they need and want the support of a Community Development Officer; and

WHEREAS The Community has made clear the need for the various programs through their strong and continued attendance at the programs and that the number of participants in the programs has been constantly rising over the course of the past three years; and

WHEREAS the Council of French River is well aware that retaining and attracting families to the French River is vital to the future and sustainability of our community.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council of the Municipality of French River approve the continued support of a position of Community Development Officer and allocate the necessary funding in the Municipal Budget.

Council wished to go into closed session to discuss the proposed efficiencies/restructuring relating to positions.

Moved By Gisèle Pageau and Seconded By Michel Bigras

Resol. 2016- 58

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the meeting be closed pursuant to section 239 (2) (b) of the *Municipal Act*, personal matters that would identify municipal employees.

Carried

Moved By Denny Sharp and Seconded By Gisèle Pageau

Resol. 2016- 59

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the open session reconvenes at 7:15 p.m.

Carried

Once Council reconvened into open session, the discussion on the Notice of Motion relating to the Community Development Position and Programs continued.

Motion to Amend

Moved By Gisèle Pageau and Seconded By Malcolm Lamothe

Motion to amend to add the word 'modified' prior to the word position.

Councillor Michel Bigras requested a Recorded Vote for the amendment.

	FOR	AGAINST
COUNCILLOR Michel Bigras	x	
COUNCILLOR Malcolm Lamothe	x	
COUNCILLOR Ron Garbutt	x	
COUNCILLOR Gisèle Pageau	x	
COUNCILLOR Denny Sharp	x	
COUNCILLOR Dean Wenborne	x	
MAYOR Claude Bouffard	x	

Amendment Carried

Resolution now reads:

WHEREAS there has been broad, significant public response as the result of the recent announcement to terminate the position of Community Development Officer in the Municipality of French River; and

WHEREAS the public of French River has made it very clear that they need and want the support of a Community Development Officer; and

WHEREAS The Community has made clear the need for the various programs through their strong and continued attendance at the programs and that the number of participants in the programs has been constantly rising over the course of the past three years; and

WHEREAS the Council of French River is well aware that retaining and attracting families to the French River is vital to the future and sustainability of our community.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council of the Municipality of French River approve the continued support of a modified position of Community Development Officer and allocate the necessary funding in the Municipal Budget.

Councillor Michel Bigras requested a Recorded Vote.

	FOR	AGAINST
COUNCILLOR Michel Bigras	x	
COUNCILLOR Malcolm Lamothe	x	
COUNCILLOR Ron Garbutt	x	
COUNCILLOR Gisèle Pageau	x	
COUNCILLOR Denny Sharp	x	
COUNCILLOR Dean Wenborne	x	
MAYOR Claude Bouffard	x	

Carried

4.0 Operations Review and Long Term Financial Plan

The CAO provided an update and answered questions from Council. Prior to considering the main motion, Council wished to choose between the two higher scored firms.

Moved By Michel Bigras and Seconded By Denny Sharp

Resol. 2016- 60

That Infrastructure Solutions (Engineering) Inc. be chosen firm to perform the Operations Review and Long Term Financial Plan.

Councillor Michel Bigras requested a Recorded Vote.

	FOR	AGAINST
COUNCILLOR Michel Bigras	x	
COUNCILLOR Malcolm Lamothe		x
COUNCILLOR Ron Garbutt		x
COUNCILLOR Gisèle Pageau		x
COUNCILLOR Denny Sharp	x	
COUNCILLOR Dean Wenborne		x
Mayor Claude Bouffard	x	

Motion defeated

Moved By Ron Garbutt and Seconded By Malcolm Lamothe

Resol. 2016- 61

WHEREAS in early 2015, Council agreed that the Municipality would benefit from a service, operations and financial review to identify potential opportunities for efficiencies and overall effectiveness; and

WHEREAS proposals for an Operations Review and Long Term Financial Plan were received through a tendering process, reviewed and scored by an ad hoc committee; and

WHEREAS Council had agreed on September 9, 2015 to halt the process until January 2016 for further consideration.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council proceeds with the Operations Review and Long Term Financial Plan and agrees to enter into an agreement with KPMG LLP and that the funds for an amount up to \$55,000 be taken out of the dedicated Reserve.

Councillor Michel Bigras requested a Recorded Vote.

	FOR	AGAINST
COUNCILLOR Michel Bigras	x	
COUNCILLOR Malcolm Lamothe	x	
COUNCILLOR Ron Garbutt	x	
COUNCILLOR Gisèle Pageau	x	
COUNCILLOR Denny Sharp	x	
COUNCILLOR Dean Wenborne	x	
MAYOR Claude Bouffard	x	

Carried

5.0 Budget Deliberations

Council agreed to the following items to meet the last meeting's mandate for the maximum increase of 9.9%:

- cut \$15,000 from council conferences and training, which brings the budget amount at \$20,000 allowing for one conference/training per year per Councillor and unlimited for the Mayor
- additional \$104,458 in OPP costs for 2016, will be passed along in higher user fee, increasing it to approx. \$254.47 per household
- cut \$12,000 to capital budget for flag poles, to be used in the operating budget
- cut \$125,000 to capital budget for weight scales at the landfill, to be used in the operating budget
- cut \$25,000 to capital budget for software at landfill, to be used in the operating budget

Moved By Gisèle Pageau and Seconded By Malcolm Lamothe

Resol. 2016- 62

THAT Council agrees to cut Council's per diem from the budget for the full amount of \$15,000.

Councillor Michel Bigras requested a Recorded Vote.

	FOR	AGAINST
COUNCILLOR Michel Bigras		x
COUNCILLOR Malcolm Lamothe	x	
COUNCILLOR Ron Garbutt	x	
COUNCILLOR Gisèle Pageau	x	
COUNCILLOR Denny Sharp		x
COUNCILLOR Dean Wenborne	x	
MAYOR Claude Bouffard		x

Carried

Council went through the Capital Budget and made the following changes:

- cut \$15,000 for the tower repeater for the fire service which has a tax savings of \$10,000
- add an additional \$61,000 to the ACC to bring forward the generator to 2016 for 2017
- borrow the full \$81,000 for both the transfer switch and the generator for the ACC for a tax savings of \$20,000

Council went through the Operational Budget and made the following changes:

- add back \$5,000 to restore a scaled down Canada Day Celebration

Council would like to ensure that the Library Board will be part of the scope for the Operational Review.

Moved By Michel Bigras and Seconded By Denny Sharp

Resol. 2016- 63

THAT Council moves forward with the current draft budget at a 9.03% increase and that it be presented at a public meeting.

Carried

6.0 Items Deferred from the Regular Council Meeting dated February 10th, 2016

6.1 Resolution to create an Ad Hoc Committee and adopt Terms of Reference to set the framework for a waste diversion educational and marketing plan

A motion was not moved therefore not considered by Council; the item could be considered during or after the operations review process.

6.2 Resolution to Investigate the design, construction and operation of a Waste Water Treatment Plant

A motion was not moved therefore not considered by Council; the item will not be pursued at this time.

6.3 Action Report - Resolution to approve the purchase of Fire Services Truck

Moved By Gisèle Pageau and Seconded By Michel Bigras

Resol. 2016- 64

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approves the purchase of a Fire Services Truck for an amount up to \$55,000 and that the funds be borrowed.

Carried

Moved By Michel Bigras and Seconded By Ron Garbutt

Resol. 2016- 65

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the special meeting be adjourned at 10:30p.m.

Carried

MAYOR

CLERK