The Town of Fortune

P. O. BOX 159
Temple Street
Fortune, NL
A0E 1P0

TELEPHONE: (709) 832-2810
FAX: (709) 832-2210
EMAIL: townoffortunecao@gmail.com

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of Fortune Town Council
at the Fortune Municipal Center
Wednesday, November 27, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

Members Present:	Mayor	Deanne Hickman
	Deputy Mayor	Jennifer Robere
	Councillors	Kenneth Keeping
		Paul Peach
		Rita Piercey
		Rodney Rose
Absent with Regrets:	Councillor	Roy Kendell
Also Present:	CAO	Linda Collier
	Town Clerk	Lacey Symes

Additions/Adoption to Agenda:

Mayor Hickman asked if there were any additions to the Agenda of November 30, 2024.

GENERAL BUSINESS:
6. Arena Suggestion- Parent N' Tot Skating
7. Grand Bank Retirement Center- Annual Tree Light-up Invitation

CORRESPONDENCE:
Department of Innovation, Science & Economic Development- Prime Minister Awards

Motion 2024-11-27-01: Deputy Mayor **ROBERE**/Councillor **KEEPING**

Be it resolved that the Agenda of November 30, 2024 meeting be adopted with the noted additions.

In favour: Mayor Hickman
Deputy Mayor Robere
Councillors: Keeping, Peach, Piercey & Rose
Opposed: 0 Motion carried.

Adoption of Minutes:
Mayor Hickman asked if there were any errors or omissions to the Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on November 13, 2024 as presented.

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Motion 2024-11-27-02: Councillor **ROSE**/Councillor **KEEPING**

Be it resolved to adopt the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of November 13, 2024 as presented.

In favour: Mayor Hickman
Deputy Mayor Robere
Councillors: Keeping, Peach, Piercey & Rose
Opposed: 0 Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

1. **Discretionary Use- MET Tower:**

No response to date. Town Clerk Symes to reach out regarding an update.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. **Eldon Street Ditching:** No longer required for follow-up.

2. **Downtown Development Project Phase I:** Remaining work to be completed & deferred to spring due to weather conditions .

3. **2025 Budget:**

Motion 2024-11-27-03: Councillor **PIERCEY** /Councillor **KEEPING**

Be it resolved to adopt the 2025 balanced budget in the amount of $4,578,247.24 as presented by the Finance Committee.

In favour: Mayor Hickman
Deputy Mayor Robere
Councillors: Keeping, Peach, Piercey& Rose
Opposed: 0 Motion carried.

Motion 2024-11-27-04: Councillor **KEEPING**/Deputy Mayor **ROBERE**

Be it resolved to approve the increase to 2025 Council Honorariums.

In favour: Mayor Hickman
Deputy Mayor Robere
Councillors: Keeping, Peach, Piercey & Rose
Opposed: 0 Motion carried.

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There was an inquiry regarding conflict of interest as there are Fire Department Members & spouses on Council. CAO Collier advised that as this is not an individual monetary gain, it's as a group, the members in question has the liberty to vote on it along with the remaining Councillors who are not in conflict with the fire department.

Motion 2024-11-27-05: Councillor **PIERCEY** /Councillor **KEEPING**

Be it resolved to approve the increase to the 2025 Fire Department Honorariums.

In favour: Mayor Hickman
Deputy Mayor Robere
Councillors: Keeping, Peach, Piercey & Rose
Opposed: 0 Motion carried.

Motion 2024-11-27-06: Councillor **ROSE**/Deputy Mayor **ROBERE**

Be it resolved to approve a $1.00/hour increase for Municipal Clerk Tammy Mullins as of January 1, 2024.

In favour: Mayor Hickman
Deputy Mayor Robere
Councillors: Keeping, Peach, Piercey & Rose
Opposed: 0 Motion carried.

Motion 2024-11-27-07: Councillor **PEACH**/Councillor **ROSE**

Be it resolved to approve a $1.00/hr increase for Arena Attendant Chris Simms as per completion of the Arena Operators Course and previous meetings with him regarding this decision.

In favour: Mayor Hickman
Deputy Mayor Robere
Councillors: Keeping, Peach, Piercey & Rose
Opposed: 0 Motion carried.

4. 2025 Tax Structure:

A family rate for skating admission was discussed, it was agreed to offer a family rate in the amount of $12.00 for families in groups of 3-5 people.

A Parent & Tot/Adult Skate was also discussed, after consultation with Arena Supervisor Tulk, it was agreed to offer this skate on Fridays.

Changes made to the 2025 Tax Structure from the previous year consist of, removal of Poll Tax, Family Rate for skating admission and Animal Control fees/fines.

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Motion 2024-11-27-08: Councillor **ROSE**/Councillor **KEEPING**

Be it resolved to approve the 2025 Tax Structure as presented.

In favour: Mayor Hickman
Deputy Mayor Robere
Councillors: Keeping, Peach, Piercey & Rose
Opposed: 0 Motion carried.

Motion 2024-11-27-09: Councillor **PIERCEY**/Councillor **ROSE**

Be it resolved to gazette the 2025 Tax Structure.

In favour: Mayor Hickman
Deputy Mayor Robere
Councillors: Keeping, Peach, Piercey & Rose
Opposed: 0 Motion carried.

5. 2024 Audit Services:

Motion 2024-11-27-10: Councillor KEEPING/Councillor ROSE

Be it resolved to approve the Jordan Penney CPA Professional Corp quote for a three year contract for auditing services.

In favour: Mayor Hickman
Deputy Mayor Robere
Councillors: Keeping, Peach, Piercey & Rose
Opposed: 0 Motion carried.

6. **Arena Suggestion- Parent N' Tot Skating:** Discussed under item #4.

7. **Grand Bank Retirement Center- Annual Tree Light-up Invitation:** December 2, 2024 at 6:00 p.m., Councillor Piercey to attend.

FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS: Payables: November 13, 2024- November 22, 2024

Motion 2024-11-27-11: Councillor **PEACH**/Councillor **ROSE**

Be it resolved to approve the financial transactions dated November 13, 2024- November 22, 2024.

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In favour: Mayor Hickman
Deputy Mayor Robere
Councillors: Keeping, Peach, Piercey & Rose
Opposed: 0 Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Department of Innovation, Science & Economic Development- Prime Minister Awards: For Councillor's Information

PERMITS/APPLICATIONS: NIL

CAO REPORT:

- Suggested for the Fire Department liaison to recommend to the Fire Department to apply for a liquor license. CAO noted that the town staff is able to assist with the application process.
- The 14-18 Bayview Street parking court case is scheduled for December 2, 2024.
- Senior's appreciation supper is December 5th at 5:30 p.m.
- Town of Fortune Christmas supper is December 7th.

Councillor Peach left the Council Meeting at 7:31 p.m.

COUNCILLORS FORUM/COMMITTEE REPORTS:

MayorHickman:
- CBC interview tomorrow, regarding the closure of Scotiabank.
- Inquired whether the cluster of trailers when you first enter Tobacco Road is on Crown Lands. CAO Collier advised it is Crown Land and she will ask Public Works Staff to take pictures and she will coordinate with Crown Lands regarding the state it is in.

Deputy Mayor Robere: NIL

Councillor Keeping: NIL

Councillor Piercey:
- Inquired if the Recreation Commission would be able to use a town truck for the Christmas parade. It was a conesus of Council to allow the Recreation Commission to utilize the town truck for the Christmas Parade as they are an arm of Council and are covered under the Town's insurance policy.
- Councillor Keeping will be driving the float for the Christmas Parade on behalf of the town.

Councillor Rose:
- As per conversation with Grand Bank Councillor, they advised that there are plans for a campground within the Town of Grand Bank, near/off of Marine Drive.

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ADJOURNMENT / Next Meeting:

Motion 2024-11-27-12: Deputy **Mayor ROBERE**/Councillor **ROSE**

Be it resolved that the Regular Meeting of Council adjourn at 7:59 p.m., next meeting scheduled for, December 11, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

In favour: Mayor Hickman
Deputy Mayor Robere
Councillors: Keeping, Peach, Piercey & Rose
Opposed: 0 Motion carried.

Deanne Hickman
MAYOR

Lacey Symes
TOWN CLERK