

THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ARMOUR

MINUTES

February 13, 2024

The regular meeting of the Council of the Township of Armour was held on Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. Those in attendance were: Mayor Rod Ward; Councillors Rod Blakelock, Jerry Brandt, Wendy Whitwell and Dorothy Haggart-Davis; Delegations: Amy Tilley, Waste Management Administrator and Keith McCoy, Roads Supervisor; Guests: Sarah Bissonette, Isabel Pereira and Nieves Guijarro; Staff: John Theriault, Clerk-Treasurer/Administrator.

INDIGENOUS LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

Council acknowledged the traditional lands of the Anishinaabe and recognized the historical and contemporary contributions of the local First Nations and the peoples of Turtle Island.

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the regular Council meeting held on January 23, 2024 were approved as circulated.

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND GENERAL NATURE THEREOF:

No pecuniary interest and general nature thereof were declared.

DELEGATIONS:

Amy Tilley, Waste Management Administrator, presented a report on the recycling of mattresses collected at the landfill and the disposal of the mattress pile they presently have. Council passed a resolution approving the proposal to recycle mattresses. Council also discussed an amendment to the 2024 draft Waste Management budget and passed a resolution approving the amendment.

Keith McCoy, Roads Supervisor provided a verbal report on the work the Roads Department is accomplishing. Questions were asked and answered.

ACCOUNTS FOR APPROVAL:

The list of accounts for February 2024 was approved by resolution.

APPLICATIONS: None

BY-LAWS:

By-law #08-2024 being a by-law to establish fees and charges for the Township of Armour and to rescind By-law #49-2023 was read a third time and passed by resolution.

By-law #10-2024 being a by-law to establish a Committee of Adjustment and to rescind By-law #47-2023 was read in its entirety and passed by resolution.

By-law #11-2024 being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Council at its January 2024 meeting was read in its entirety and passed by resolution.

By-law #12-2024 being a by-law to appoint By-law Enforcement Officers and to rescind By-law #65-2018 was read in its entirety and passed by resolution.

REPORTS:

Council reviewed an updated financial statement to December 31, 2023.

Council reviewed the February 2024 Planning Report.

Council reviewed the February 2024 Building Permit Report.

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REPORTS cont'd:

Council reviewed the February 2024 Heritage Festival report.

Council reviewed the minutes of the Historical Society's meeting held on January 22, 2024.

Council reviewed the minutes of the ACED meeting held on January 25, 2024. Council also reviewed the 2023 ACED annual report. Questions were asked and answered.

Council reviewed the notes of the Eastholme meeting held on January 24, 2024.

Council reviewed the notes of the Almaguin Community Bus Committee for the meeting held on January 31, 2024 and the results of the completed Community Bus Survey. Council discussed the survey and is looking forward to the next steps on this project.

Council reviewed the minutes of the AHHC meeting of February 2, 2024.

Council reviewed a report on the February 5, 2024 meeting of the KCC. The report included a request for an extension to the liquor license for the KCC Winter Carnival. Council passed a resolution supporting the extension.

A verbal report was given on the February 8, 2024 DSSAB meeting.

Council discussed a progress update from the Mayor on "Preparing for the Future in the Almaguin Highlands". Council agreed with where our municipality's priorities are and how they are progressing.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Council reviewed a letter from the City of Sarnia requesting their support in asking the Federal Government to cancel the carbon tax. Council passed a resolution of support.

Council received a letter from the Municipality of Tweed requesting their support in asking the Province to reinstate licensing plate renewals and use the funds for infrastructure improvements. Council passed a supporting resolution.

Council reviewed a news release from Ontario News advising that the Province is connecting children and youth in North Bay and Muskoka to care close to home.

Council reviewed a resolution from the Township of McMurrich/Monteith supporting new discussions on Regional Fire Services.

Council reviewed a resolution from the Township of McMurrich/Monteith agreeing to place \$20,000 in a Fire Department Reserve for the live burn building project.

Council reviewed a resolution from the Township of Perry agreeing to place \$20,000 in their capital budget to build the first stage of a live burn building for the Fire Departments.

Council reviewed a letter from Enbridge informing Council of their concerns regarding a decision from the Ontario Energy Board.

Council reviewed a news release from Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare introducing the made in Muskoka Healthcare system of the future.

Council reviewed a news release from Ontario News advising that the Province is supporting a plan to refurbish the Pickering nuclear generating station.

Council reviewed the January, 2024 Labour Focus Report published by The Labour Market Group.

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CORRESPONDENCE cont'd:

Council reviewed a news release from Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare celebrating the first anniversary of the Hospital to Home Program.

Council reviewed a letter from the OPP advising that the new *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019* will come into force on April 1, 2024, but that it will not change the OPP billing model cost allocation for municipalities.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Council received an update on the plans to upgrade the new storage building at the Watt Century Farmhouse and Heritage Centre and an estimate of the engineering costs to complete this work. Council tabled a resolution to add this cost to the 2024 capital budget.

NEW BUSINESS:

Council reviewed an application to NOHFC for a grant to help defray the costs of the Heritage Festival. Council passed a resolution supporting the application.

Council reviewed and discussed a request, from the Township of Ryerson, to establish a joint Fire Department capital reserve and to allocate \$20,000 to this reserve for the live burn building project. Council passed a resolution supporting the transfer of their share of the \$20,000 into the Township of Armour's fire reserve.

Council reviewed and discussed a report, from the Deputy-Clerk, on a proposal to separate Doe Lake Municipal Park from the groundskeeper contract and award it to a different contractor. Council defeated a resolution supporting this proposal.

Council reviewed and discussed a report, from the Deputy-Clerk, on the 2024 groundskeeper contract. Council defeated a resolution awarding this contract and requested that the contract be tendered.

Council reviewed and discussed a report, from the Clerk-Treasurer/Administrator, for the purchase of two vehicles for By-law and Building. Council passed a resolution approving the purchases.

Council discussed all of the properties owned by the MTO along the Highway 11 corridor. The question was asked if the Township should not acquire some of these lots to facilitate development in our municipality. Council directed staff to forward a list of properties, which would be suitable for development to Council for discussion.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution #36 - Moved by Rod Blakelock, seconded by Dorothy Haggart-Davis; That the Council of the Township of Armour approve the minutes of the regular council meeting held on January 23, 2024, as circulated. Carried

Resolution #37 - Moved by Wendy Whitwell, seconded by Dorothy Haggart-Davis; That the Staff Report from the Waste Management Administrator dated February 13, 2024, regarding mattress recycling be received and that Council approved the purchase of a 20-foot shipping container through the 2024 Waste Management operating budget and approves the proposal from Recyc-Mattress for the recycling of the mattresses we receive each year at the landfill site. Furthermore, that Council approve an amendment to the 2024 draft Waste Management capital budget to change the operating face repair project to the shredding and disposal of the 5-year stockpile of mattresses at the landfill site. Carried

Resolution #38 - Moved by Jerry Brandt, seconded by Rod Blakelock; That the Council of the Township of Armour approves the amended Waste Management 2024 draft budget and directs staff to include the budget in the TRI Council meeting agenda of February 26, 2024. Carried

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RESOLUTIONS cont'd:

Resolution #39 - Moved by Rod Blakelock, seconded by Wendy Whitwell; That the Council of the Township of Armour approves the February 2024 accounts, in the amount of \$382,659.30 for payment, and the Mayor and the Treasurer are hereby authorized to sign cheques for same. Carried

Resolution #40 - Moved by Jerry Brandt, seconded by Rod Blakelock; That the Council of the Township of Armour have read a third time and approves By-law #8-2024 being a by-law to update the fees or charges for services provided by the Township and to rescind By-law #49-2023 and that we authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign this by-law and affix the seal of the Corporation thereto. Carried

Resolution #41 - Moved by Rod Blakelock, seconded by Wendy Whitwell; That the Council of the Township of Armour have read and approves By-law #10-2024 being a by-law to establish a Committee of Adjustment and to rescind By-law #47-2023 and that we authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign this by-law and affix the seal of the Corporation thereto. Carried

Resolution #42 - Moved by Wendy Whitwell, seconded by Dorothy Haggart-Davis; That the Council of the Township of Armour have read and approves By-law #11-2024 being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Council at its January meetings and that we authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign this by-law and affix the seal of the Corporation thereto. Carried

Resolution #43 - Moved by Jerry Brandt, seconded by Dorothy Haggart-Davis; That the Council of the Township of Armour have read and approves By-law #12-2024 being a by-law to appoint By-Law Enforcement Officers and repeal By-law #65-2018 and that we authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign this by-law and affix the seal of the Corporation thereto. Carried

Resolution #44 - Moved by Dorothy Haggart-Davis, seconded by Jerry Brandt; That the Council of the Township of Armour approves the extension of the liquor license for the Katrine Community Centre from an 11:00 a.m. start to a 9:00 a.m. start on Sunday February 25, 2024. Carried

Resolution #45 - Moved by Jerry Brandt, seconded by Rod Blakelock; That the Council of the Township of Armour supports the City of Sarnia and strongly urges the Government of Canada to cancel the carbon tax which is financially hurting our citizens. Carried

Resolution #46 - Moved by Rod Blakelock, seconded by Dorothy Haggart-Davis; That the Council of the Township of Armour supports the Municipality of Tweed in requesting that the province reinstate the Licence Plate Renewal fees and allocate the funds collected to improve Ontario's infrastructure, ensuring long-term prosperity and safety of our communities. Carried

Resolution #47 - Moved by Jerry Brandt, seconded by Rod Blakelock; That the Council of the Township of Armour directs staff to include \$10,000 in the Parks & Recreation capital budget to cover the cost of engineering for the upgrades to the new storage building at the Watt Heritage Centre. **Tabled**

Resolution #48 - Moved by Dorothy Haggart-Davis, seconded by Rod Blakelock; **WHEREAS** the Council of the Township of Armour has included, in their 2024 budget, a project for holding a Heritage Festival on July 13, 2024 to celebrate the heritage of our region;

AND WHEREAS this project will attract more tourism to the area;

AND WHEREAS, since attendance is free, anyone can attend this event;

AND WHEREAS to help fund this project the Township of Armour has applied for funding to the NOHFC Community Enhancement Program;

RESOLUTIONS cont'd:

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Township of Armour approves the application submitted to the NOHFC Cultural Supports program – Community Events Stream and confirms that the Township of Armour will fund their share of the project, estimated at \$19,870, and any shortfall which may occur with this project. Carried

Resolution #49 - Moved by Rod Blakelock, seconded by Jerry Brandt; That the Council of the Township of Armour supports allocating, in their 2024 budget, their share of \$20,000 of the cost of part of the live burn building project in the Township of Armour's Fire Reserve. Carried

Resolution #50 - Moved by Rod Blakelock, seconded by Dorothy Haggart-Davis; That the Staff Report from the Deputy Clerk dated February 13, 2024 regarding the Groundskeeper contract be received and that Council directs Staff to separate Doe Lake Municipal Park from the Groundskeeper contract and awards the care of the municipal property's park to Klink Enterprises and requests that Claridge Maintenance revise their 2024 Groundskeeper contract quote to remove the Doe Lake Municipal Park. Furthermore, that this contract be exempt from the requirements of the Procurement By-law. **Defeated**

Resolution #51 - Moved by Rod Blakelock, seconded by Wendy Whitwell; That the Staff Report from the Deputy Clerk dated February 13, 2024, regarding the Groundskeeper contract be received and that Council awards the contract for the 2024 season to Claridge Maintenance, for a tender price of \$29,400 plus HST. Furthermore, that this contract be exempt from the requirements of the Procurement By-law. **Defeated**

Resolution #52 - Moved by Dorothy Haggart-Davis, seconded by Rod Blakelock; That the Staff Report from the Clerk-Treasurer/Administrator dated February 13, 2024, regarding the purchase of vehicles for Building and By-law Enforcement be received and that Council approves the purchase of two vehicles for a total price not exceeding \$90,000 and exempt this purchase for the requirements of the Procurement Policy. Carried

Resolution #53 - Moved by Dorothy Haggart-Davis, seconded by Wendy Whitwell; That the Council of the Township of Armour adjourns this regular council meeting at 9:42 p.m. until the next regular council meeting scheduled for February 27, 2024 or at the call of the Mayor or the Clerk. Carried

Original Signed By Rod Ward

Rod Ward, Mayor

Original Signed By John Theriault

John Theriault, Clerk