

**CITY OF IQALUIT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING #01
JANUARY 23, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

PRESENT FROM COUNCIL

Mayor Solomon Awa
Deputy Mayor Kimberly Smith
Alternate Deputy Mayor Harry Flaherty
Councillor Methusalah Kunuk
Councillor Kyle Sheppard
Councillor Romeyn Stevenson
Councillor Samuel Tilley

ABSENT

Councillor Simon Nattaq

PRESENT FROM ADMINISTRATION

Steve England, Chief Administrative Officer
Tammy Ernst-Doiron, City Clerk
Brianna Longworth, Deputy City Clerk
Kent Driscoll, Communications and Customer Service Manager
Mathew Dodds, Director of Planning and Development
Simon Doiron, Director of Public Works

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Awa opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. with a prayer.

SWEARING IN

None

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Change:

Agenda – City Council Meeting #01 not #02

8. OLD BUSINESS

- a) Vacancy in Office – Mayor and Councillors’ Policy– Presented by Steve England,
Chief Administrative Officer

Motion #24-01

Moved by: Alternate Deputy Mayor Flaherty

Seconded by: Councillor Tilley

Adoption of agenda as amended.

Unanimously Carried

1. MINUTES

a) City Council Meeting #22 Minutes dated December 12, 2023

Motion #24-02

Moved by: Councillor Kunuk
Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Smith

City Council Meeting #22 Minutes dated December 12, 2023.

Unanimously Carried

b) Planning and Development Committee of the Whole Meeting #01 Minutes dated January 16, 2024

Motion #24-03

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Smith
Seconded by: Alternate Deputy Mayor Flaherty

Planning and Development Committee of the Whole Meeting #01 Minutes dated January 16, 2024.

Unanimously Carried

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Deputy Mayor Smith advised that she does not have to declare a conflict of interest for the following agenda item as long as Council is discussing the Vacancy in Office - Mayor and Councillors' Policy. She pointed out that if Council discusses an option to fill the vacant seat, she will declare a conflict of interest and leave meeting.

8. Old Business
a) Vacancy in Office – Mayor and Councillors' Policy

3. DELEGATIONS

a) Public Drinking

Lew Phillip, a resident of Iqaluit, made a presentation to Council regarding alcohol and the following are the highlights of the presentation:

- Approached by elders and youth requesting help regarding alcohol

- Receptionist at City does not speak Inuktitut and elders do not call
- Permitted amount of alcohol that can be purchased is too high
- Territorial government does not acknowledge the high amount of alcohol being purchased
- Bootlegging is still ongoing for alcohol, beer and wine
 - People purchase items from the Iqaluit Beer and Wine Store and bootleg the products
- Alcohol is having negative occurrences on the community
 - Parents who abuse alcohol are neglecting their children
 - Elders fear people who are abusing alcohol
 - Violence is happening
- Prior to the beer and wine store opening, individuals did not drink during the day
- Iqaluit residents need help
- RCMP are very busy and they are working long hours
- Embarrassing for visitors and tourists to see empty alcohol bottles on the beach
- Residents are asking and relying on Council to find ways to help with the alcohol problem in the city

Mayor Awa noted that Council is aware of the alcohol problem and related issues and have discussed the matter on a number of occasions.

b) Iqaluit RCMP Detachment Monthly Reports – November and December 2023

Staff Sargeant Darrell Gill, Iqaluit RCMP, presented the November and December 2023 Monthly Reports.

4. AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

None

5. STATEMENTS

Councillor Tilley advised that annual and monthly aquatic centre pass holders have contacted him regarding the non-operational hot tub and sauna. Councillor Tilley asked if staff can provide an update regarding a plan to repair both the hot tub and sauna at a future Council meeting.

Deputy Mayor Smith extended a Happy New Year greeting to the residents of Iqaluit. She noted that a new year is a new beginning and she is looking forward to working with Council to create a safer and brighter community for all residents.

Alternate Deputy Mayor Flaherty made the following statement:

- Master Plan is needed for the city
 - There is a trend in approving by-law and zoning amendments.

- A plan needs to be developed for future growth and to ensure that there are suitable locations available to develop various services that reflect the needs of the community and services being provided.
- Public drunkenness is a problem
 - Since the opening of the beer and wine store seven years ago, there have been a number of issues regarding alcohol abuse
 - There is no action to deal with the problem.
 - There is no accountability.
 - There has to be a solution.
 - There was an attempt to close the beer and wine store in 2022, but it did not come to fruition.
 - Council recommended that there be a reduction in the amount of alcohol that can be purchased, however, nothing has happened.
 - Council has the opportunity to try and find an action plan to the alcohol problem – suggested that consumption of alcohol in a public place being similar to smoking in a public place.
- Community Centre
 - There is no gathering place for youth and elders to go to.
 - This should be a priority and included in the Master Plan.
- Council should take action in 2024 and make Iqaluit a better place to live.

Councillor Kunuk commented that he wanted to make Iqaluit welcoming, safe and a better place to live and visit. He suggested/noted the following:

- Establish a processing plant for fish and country food in Iqaluit, which would also benefit other communities
 - Processing fish from neighbouring communities who have fish quotas would eliminate the high shipping cost to send the products south
 - Processing fish and country food in Iqaluit would enable the product to be sold locally and down south
- Need a hunter's market to sell products to the local people
- Residents who are not able to make money by selling country food and fish do not have the income to buy equipment to continue hunting and fishing to feed their families. This is when alcohol problems arise.
- Residents of Rankin Inlet lobbied Council to request the territorial government to reduce the sale of beer and wine to a reasonable level, which was done.
- Property taxes for churches – churches provide free services to help the community
 - Churches are struggling and they will have to start charging for services in order to stay open
- Snow clearing has to be done better to ensure that driveways are left open so that residents can receive water and sewer trucked services
 - Trails are also blocked, which makes it difficult for hunters to access the land

Councillor Sheppard reminded councillors that Administration does not take any direction from Councillors' statements. If councillors want to address and work on

issues, it is important to e-mail or speak to the Mayor and/or Chief Administrative Officer and have the items added to future Council agendas so the items can be addressed, discussed and action can be taken.

Councillor Sheppard expressed that the items brought up were important and encouraged councillors to take the necessary steps to have the items added to a future Council agenda.

Mayor Awa commented that there are many issues that need to be dealt with. He pointed out that Council does have a Master Plan relating to roads. Mayor Awa noted that it is important that Council is prepared and continues to plan, as there is an agreement with the federal government for Nunavut 3000 to assist with building houses across the territory.

6. DEFERRED BUSINESS AND TABLED ITEMS

None

7. BY-LAWS

a) First Reading of By-law(s)

None

b) Second Reading of By-law(s)

None

c) Third Reading of By-law(s)

None

8. OLD BUSINESS

a) Vacancy in Office – Mayor and Councillors’ Policy

Steve England, Chief Administrative Officer, presented the Vacancy in Office – Mayor and Councillors’ draft policy. Mr. England made the following comments:

- Comments from the discussion at the December 12, 2023 Council meeting were reviewed with legal counsel and was rewritten, but kept as a procedural policy
 - Legal counsel did not recommend that the policy should favour a particular option, but rather a procedural policy would guide Council to make a decision

Deputy Mayor Smith expressed concern that under Vacancy in the Office of Councillor item 3 (a), the time frame to accept applications from the public was longer than the time

frame for a Councillor election. She felt the time frame should be not less than seven days and not more than 14 days.

Councillor Stevenson made the following suggested changes:

- Purpose and Scope should be reversed
- Process – Vacancy in the Office of Mayor
 - After item 3, add a new item – In the case that the Mayor is appointed from the elected council members, they will assume that office immediately and the process to fill the vacant Council seat will begin at a subsequent Council meeting in the manner described in the Vacancy of the Office of Councillor.
 - Item 4 that is now Item 5 – last sentence should be – For greater clarity, a Councillor appointed under this policy is ineligible to be appointed Mayor if that position is vacated. (The original wording of this item will remain based on discussion later in the meeting).
 - Item 5 is now Item 6 – change day to time
 - Item 6 is now Item 7 – add at the beginning of the item – In either method of selection
- Process – Vacancy in the Office of Councillor
 - Add new item 3 as follows:
 - If Council seeks to appoint a candidate from the previous election:
 - a. Council shall first seek to confirm that they are available, still eligible and willing to accept the appointment.
 - b. If two or more candidates that had the same number of votes are available, still eligible and willing to accept the appointment, Council must select a candidate using the same tie-breaking procedure as required of the Chief Electoral Officer under the *Nunavut Elections Act*.
 - c. The motion of Council to appoint the candidate to fill the vacant seat will take place at the next available Council meeting after eligibility and willingness have been confirmed.
 - Item 3 becomes item 4
 - b (ii) – remove “either”
 - b (iv) – remove entirely
 - Item 5 should be – In either method of selection, the person appointed as Councillor shall be sworn in to the office and shall serve the balance of the term of their predecessor.

Councillor Stevenson commented that if Council agrees with the proposed changes, the policy should be updated and presented to the next Council meeting for review.

Deputy Mayor Smith declared a conflict of interest and left the meeting.

Motion #24-04

Moved by: Councillor Stevenson

Seconded by: Councillor Sheppard

Council conducts a call-out for interested parties to be considered to fill the vacancy of councillor for the City of Iqaluit. This call-out should be advertised with an application deadline of February 5, 2024, and presentation to Council on February 13, 2024. The Chief Administrative Officer may modify these dates slightly in order to best serve the administration of the City.

Unanimously Carried

Councillor Sheppard indicated that he was supportive of everything, however, he was not in favour of the changes to what is currently item 4, under Vacancy in the Office of Mayor. He noted that it does not allow the appointment of any councillor from serving as Mayor in the future. He felt that once a person was appointed a councillor, they should have the same opportunities as elected councillors. He explained that appointing a councillor should enable them to be appointed Mayor if there is a vacancy in the Office of Mayor at a later date.

Councillor Sheppard noted that item 4 provides clarity that if there is a simultaneous vacancy in both the Office of Mayor and Office of Council, Council cannot fill a vacancy in the Office of Councillor and then appoint that same person to fill the vacancy in the Office of Mayor.

Mr. England suggested that a separate motion be made to consider the suggested revisions to the draft Vacancy in Office – Mayor and Councillors' Policy.

Council voted on the motion to conduct a call-out for interested parties to be considered to fill the vacancy in the Office of Councillor.

Deputy Mayor Smith returned to the meeting for the continued discussion relating to the policy.

Councillor Stevenson acknowledged and understood what Councillor Sheppard explained regarding item 4. Councillor Stevenson advised that item 4, that is now item 5, should remain in its entirety.

Councillor Stevenson noted that there are instances when Council sets a timeline and it does not allow Administration sufficient time to carry out. He felt that there should be some flexibility in setting timelines.

Councillor Sheppard agreed that there should be flexibility in timelines, should circumstances arise.

Motion #24-05

Moved by: Councillor Sheppard
Seconded by: Alternate Deputy Mayor Flaherty

Council requests Administration to incorporate the suggested changes to the Vacancy in Office – Mayor and Councillors’ Policy to be presented at a future Council meeting for review and approval.

Unanimously Carried

9. NEW BUSINESS

a) Request for Decision – Wastewater Treatment Operator Support – Aquatech Contract Extension

Simon Doiron, Director of Public Works, presented a Request for Decision to extend Aquatech’s contract for wastewater treatment operator support, which expired on December 31, 2023. Staff are recommending extending the contract until December 31, 2024. Mr. Doiron noted that Aquatech provided support three times in 2023 when staff were not available.

Motion #24-06

Moved by: Councillor Sheppard
Seconded by: Alternate Deputy Mayor Flaherty

Council extends the Aquatech contract until December 31, 2024, to provide operational support to the City’s wastewater treatment plant operators in the amount of \$75,000 plus GST.

Unanimously Carried

Councillor Sheppard asked if there was a plan to recruit additional plant operators and/or train other individuals.

Steve England, Chief Administrative Officer, advised that staff would be presenting a restructuring of the Water Fund in February. As part of the restructuring, there will be opportunities within the organization to provide more critical positions and allocating housing for the positions to attract individuals to move to Iqaluit.

Mr. England noted that in the interim, the contract will provide support if the need arises.

b) Request for Decision – Contract Extension for Remote Consultant Planners

Mathew Dodds, Director of Planning and Development, presented a Request for Decision to extend the contract for remote consultant planners to provide planning and

development support services. The service will provide operational support, special projects and land administration. Mr. Dodds noted that last July, department responsibilities relating to operations have been transitioning to in-house staff. Contract planners have continued to provide support on special projects.

Mr. Dodds noted that the contract for consultant planners expired on December 31, 2023, and staff are requesting to extend the contract for six months to reevaluate the need for operational support. He felt that contract planners would be needed for special projects on an as-needed basis. It is anticipated that the contract planners will provide support to complete the Master Plan this year.

Mr. Dodds advised that there were plans to hire local staff to fill positions.

Motion #24-07

Moved by: Alternate Deputy Mayor Flaherty

Seconded by: Councillor Sheppard

Council approves a Change Order to extend the contract with Northern Futures - Contract SC-00240 in the amount of \$80,670 plus GST.

Unanimously Carried

Councillor Sheppard noted that it was important that Northern Futures continues to revise the General Plan and Zoning By-law.

Alternate Deputy Mayor Flaherty suggested that a Request for Proposal should be called for if there was a requirement for services beyond six months.

Mr. Dodds explained that the recommendation to extend the contract for six months was to give staff the ability to call for a Request for Proposal should the need arise after that time.

c) Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) – Annual Conference and Trade Show 2024 – Calgary, AB – June 6 – 9, 2024 - Verbal

Steve England, Chief Administrative Officer, advised that the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Annual Conference and Trade Show would be held in Calgary, AB from June 6 to 9, 2024.

Mr. England noted that Mayor Awa is the president of the Nunavut Association of Municipalities (NAM) and NAM pays the conference expenses for the president to attend.

Mr. England advised that the budget includes funds to send one Administration staff and two Council representatives. He noted that the FCM attendance and travel time would be June 4 to 11, 2024.

Councillor Tilley indicated that he was interested and able to attend.

Deputy Mayor Smith indicated that she was interested to attend but would have to confirm availability.

Councillor Sheppard indicated that he was available as an alternate.

Councillor Sheppard spoke about the advantages of attending the FCM Conference and Trade Show and suggested that the budget be increased so additional councillors could attend next year.

Motion #24-08

Moved by: Alternate Deputy Mayor Flaherty

Seconded by: Councillor Kunuk

Council appoints Steve England, Chief Administrative Officer; Deputy Mayor Smith and Councillor Tilley, or their designated alternates, to attend the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Conference and Trade Show in Calgary, AB from June 4 to 11, 2024, and further, that the alternates be appointed prior to travel and conference arrangements being made.

Unanimously Carried

Deputy Mayor Smith inquired about the deadline date to confirm availability with staff.

Tammy Ernst-Doiron, City Clerk, advised that staff required confirmation by February 13, 2024. She noted that once a councillor commits to attending and later has to withdraw, the City does not have the budgetary requirements to cover the additional costs for travel changes.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

**a) Planning and Development Committee of the Whole Meeting #01 Report
January 16, 2024**

Motion #24-09

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Smith

Seconded by: Councillor Tilley

Council:

1. Gives First Reading to the Amending By-law to Zoning By-law No. 899 to rezone Lots 394 to 399, Plan 768 to Sijjanga Zone (S), Special Exception 4.
2. Directs staff to give public notice for a Public Hearing on a date to be determined by staff.

Unanimously Carried

Motion #24-10

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Smith
Seconded by: Councillor Tilley

Council:

1. Approves Development Permit Application DP 23-040 for Lots 221 and 222, Plan 644 to develop a shelter and boarding house, subject to the Special Conditions in Attachment 2, the City's Standard Conditions, and in accordance with the plans in Attachment 3.
2. Approves Survey Sketch SK 23-012 in Attachment 4 to resurvey Lots 221 and 222, Plan 644 to provide a two-metre road widening along Nipisa Street.

Unanimously Carried

11. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) **Nunavut Research Institute – Application: “Gender-Based Violence: An Intersectional Perspective” from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024, Nicole Diakite, Nunavummi Disabilities Makinnasuaqtiit Society**

Motion #24-11

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Smith
Seconded by: Councillor Tilley

Nunavut Research Institute – Application: “Gender-Based Violence: An Intersectional Perspective” from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024, Nicole Diakite, Nunavummi Disabilities Makinnasuaqtiit Society.

Unanimously Carried

12. IN CAMERA SESSION

() as per Section 22 (2) (a) CTV Act and By-law 526 Section 67

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion #24-12

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Smith
Seconded by: Alternate Deputy Mayor Flaherty

Council adjourns at 7:33 p.m.

Unanimously Carried



Mayor Solomon Awa
Chair

Tammy Ernst-Doiron
City Clerk

Approved by City Council on the 13th day of February_ 2024.