

**CITY OF IQALUIT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING #21
NOVEMBER 28, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

PRESENT FROM COUNCIL

Mayor Solomon Awa
Deputy Mayor Kimberly Smith
Councillor Simon Nattaq
Councillor Kyle Sheppard
Councillor Romeyn Stevenson
Councillor Samuel Tilley

ABSENT

Alternate Deputy Mayor Harry Flaherty
Councillor Methusalah Kunuk

PRESENT FROM ADMINISTRATION

Steve England, Chief Administrative Officer
Rod Mugford, City Administrator
Tammy Ernst-Doiron, City Clerk
Brianna Longworth, Deputy City Clerk
Katrina Sarmiento, Executive Assistant
Jeanie Eeseemailee, Senior Interpreter/Translator
Kent Driscoll, Communications and Customer Service Manager
Mathew Dodds, City Planner

MOMENT OF SILENCE

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

SWEARING IN

None

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Add:

9. NEW BUSINESS
 - b) Vacant Council Seat – Verbal

Motion #23-353

Moved by: Councillor Tilley
Seconded by: Councillor Sheppard

Adoption of agenda as amended.

Unanimously Carried

1. MINUTES

a) City Council Meeting #20 Minutes dated November 14, 2023

Motion #23-354

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Smith

Seconded by: Councillor Stevenson

City Council Meeting #20 Minutes dated November 14, 2023.

Unanimously Carried

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Deputy Mayor Smith declared a conflict of interest regarding:

9. New Business
- b) Vacant Council Seat

3. DELEGATIONS

a) Qajuqturvik Community Food Centre – Retroactive Rebate Property Tax

Rachel Blais, Executive Director, Qajuqturvik Community Food Centre (QCFC), was in attendance requesting a retroactive property tax rebate. The following are the highlights of her presentation:

- Registered charity
- Actively contributes to the health and well-being of Iqalumiut
- Improve food access, food skills and advocacy
 - Daily community meal
 - Cooking classes for youth and families
 - On-the-land youth programs
 - Country food boxes
- Last year served over 60,000 free healthy meals
- Number of meals served has doubled in the last two years
- Consistent resource for community members experiencing food insecurity
- Lease space from the Diocese of the Arctic
 - Agreement requires QCFC to pay property taxes for Building 655
- In the past, an organization that was not a property owner did not have to apply for a property tax rebate.
 - By-law was changed
 - Application for a rebate was an oversight

- Every dollar saved on property taxes can be used to expand and improve community programs.
 - These are vital for both the immediate and long-term health and well-being of community members.

Councillor Sheppard thanked Ms. Blais for the work the organization was doing for the community. Councillor Sheppard explained that a decision could not be made tonight, as staff would have to review the by-law and determine options, because typically, the property owner is required to make an application for property tax relief. Councillor Sheppard felt it was important to find a solution, as the property tax relief was specifically for organizations like QCFC.

b) Handicap Accessible Parking

Geoff Ryan, a resident of Iqaluit, was in attendance expressing his concern regarding handicap accessible parking. The following are the highlights of his presentation:

- Lived in Iqaluit for 13 years
- Has a mobility disability that requires him to use a cane
- Specialty clinic at the hospital has two designated accessible parking spaces
 - On October 31, these were filled and only one vehicle displayed the Accessibility Parking Permit
- New post office has no accessible parking space near the entrance
- Parked at the identified accessible parking space at the Frobisher Inn
 - There is only one identified space.
 - Displayed Accessible Parking Permit in vehicle
 - Accessible ramp had a steel cable with a sign “Wheelchair Users Only”
 - Returned to vehicle and letter from Nunastar Properties was under the wiper advising he could not park there and Municipal Enforcement would be notified to ticket and/or tow the vehicle
- Suggested the following to make living in Iqaluit with a mobility disability easier:
 - Reinstate the Disabilities Advisory Committee
 - Committee to provide input on projects reviewed by the Planning Department to ensure that there is an accessible design approach
 - Amend the Taxi By-law to require taxi companies who operate in excess of 10 cars to have at least one wheelchair accessible taxi
 - Operate between 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. or another acceptable proposal
 - Adhere to the legal obligation to provide accessible services required by the Human Rights Anti-discrimination Legislation
 - Amend By-law No. 638, Parking, Traffic and Walkways to ensure there are fines for unauthorized parking
 - Inspect buildings prior to issuing an Occupancy Permit to ensure there are accessible parking spaces in place that are clearly identified using international standard signage
 - By-law that prevents any accessible entrance from being blocked in any manner

Mayor Awa thanked Mr. Ryan for his presentation. He advised that staff would review his concerns and suggestions and provide Council with a report for discussion.

Deputy Mayor Smith commented that Iqaluit has struggled with accessibility for quite some time. She noted that there are many places with inoperable accessible door buttons and ramps not maintained, and these need to be addressed. Deputy Mayor Smith pointed out that accessible access is for everyone with accessibility needs.

Councillor Nattaq felt that other suggestions would be made when Council discusses accessibility. Councillor Nattaq noted that residents with disabilities have a difficult time in the community without resources.

c) Iqaluit RCMP Monthly Report – October 2023

Sergeant Mark Blakely, Iqaluit RCMP, presented the October 2023 Monthly Report and answered questions.

Sergeant Blakely advised that in conjunction with Municipal Enforcement, a traffic enforcement would be carried out on December 2, 2023 to discourage people from drinking and driving.

Sergeant Blakely noted that Sergeant Darrell Gill has been promoted to Staff Sergeant for the detachment

4. AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

None

5. STATEMENTS

Councillor Sheppard thanked the Public Works crew for snow clearing. He reminded residents that there are over 51 kilometres of roads in the city, and crews start as early as 5:00 a.m. to clear snow. He pointed out that today, roads needed to be plowed, then sanded to provide traction, and finally have calcium applied to prevent ice, which takes a considerable amount of time from dedicated City employees. Councillor Sheppard reminded residents that they have to be patient for snow clearing.

Deputy Mayor Smith noted that the roads were slippery and residents must drive cautiously and safely. She also reminded residents to turn their headlights on.

Mayor Awa noted that this week, the Nunavut Association of Municipalities (NAM) would be holding their Annual General Meeting in Iqaluit, during which time, an election of officers would take place. Mayor Awa noted that he holds an executive position and will be the president.

6. **DEFERRED BUSINESS AND TABLED ITEMS**

None

7. **BY-LAWS**

a) **First Reading of By-law(s)**

- i.) By-law No. 973, Land Disposal By-law Sketch Lots – Land Disposal By-law for Embrace Life Council and Piruqatigiit

Motion #23-355

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Smith
Seconded by: Councillor Sheppard

Council approves First Reading of By-law No. 973, Land Disposal By-law Sketch Lots – Land Disposal By-law for Embrace Life Council and Piruqatigiit.

Unanimously Carried

- ii.) By-law No. 974, Land Acquisition By-law NPR Lots – Land Acquisition By-law to Convert Commissioner Leases to City Leases for Lot 577, Plan 1571; Lot 8, Block 213, Plan 3342; Lot 9, Block 213, Plan 3335 and Lot 5, Block 217, Plan 3333

Motion #23-356

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Smith
Seconded by: Councillor Sheppard

Council approves First Reading of By-law No. 974, Land Acquisition By-law NPR Lots – Land Acquisition By-law to Convert Commissioner Leases to City Leases for Lot 577, Plan 1571; Lot 8, Block 213, Plan 3342; Lot 9, Block 213, Plan 3335 and Lot 5, Block 217, Plan 3333.

Unanimously Carried

b) **Second Reading of By-law(s)**

- i.) By-law No. 973, Land Disposal By-law Sketch Lots – Land Disposal By-law for Embrace Life Council and Piruqatigiit

Motion #23-357

Moved by: Councillor Sheppard
Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Smith

Council approves Second Reading of By-law No. 973, Land Disposal By-law Sketch Lots – Land Disposal By-law for Embrace Life Council and Piruqatigiit.

Unanimously Carried

- ii.) By-law No. 974, Land Acquisition By-law NPR Lots – Land Acquisition By-law to Convert Commissioner Leases to City Leases for Lot 577, Plan 1571; Lot 8, Block 213, Plan 3342; Lot 9, Block 213, Plan 3335 and Lot 5, Block 217, Plan 3333

Motion #23-358

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Smith
Seconded by: Councillor Sheppard

Council approves Second Reading of By-law No. 974, Land Acquisition By-law NPR Lots – Land Acquisition By-law to Convert Commissioner Leases to City Leases for Lot 577, Plan 1571; Lot 8, Block 213, Plan 3342; Lot 9, Block 213, Plan 3335 and Lot 5, Block 217, Plan 3333.

Unanimously Carried

- iii.) By-law No. 963, Amendment to General Plan By-law No. 898 - GPA 23-002 - Lot 982, Plan 4331; Lot 667, Plan 1671; Lot 669, Plan 1672 and Portion of Lot 666, Plan 1973 (West 40) – Future West 40 Industrial Subdivision

Motion #23-359

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Smith
Seconded by: Councillor Tilley

Council approves Second Reading of By-law No. 963, Amendment to General Plan By-law No. 898 - GPA 23-002 - Lot 982, Plan 4331; Lot 667, Plan 1671; Lot 669, Plan 1672 and Portion of Lot 666, Plan 1973 (West 40) – Future West 40 Industrial Subdivision.

Unanimously Carried

- iv.) By-law No. 964, Amendment to Zoning By-law No. 899 – GPA 23-004 - Lot 982, Plan 4331; Lot 667, Plan 1671; Lot 669, Plan 1672 and Portion of Lot 666, Plan 1673 (West 40) – Future West 40 Industrial Subdivision

Motion #23-360

Moved by: Councillor Sheppard
Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Smith

Council approves Second Reading of By-law No. 964, Amendment to Zoning By-law No. 899 – GPA 23-004 - Lot 982, Plan 4331; Lot 667, Plan 1671; Lot 669, Plan 1672 and Portion of Lot 666, Plan 1673 (West 40) – Future West 40 Industrial Subdivision.

Unanimously Carried

c) Third Reading of By-law(s)

- i) By-law No. 959, Amendment to Zoning By-law No. 899

Motion #23-361

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Smith
Seconded by: Councillor Tilley

Council approves Third and Final Reading of By-law No. 959, Amendment to Zoning By-law No. 899.

Unanimously Carried

- ii) By-law No. 960, Amendment to General Plan By-law No. 898

Motion #23-362

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Smith
Seconded by: Councillor Tilley

Council approves Third and Final Reading of By-law No. 960, Amendment to General Plan By-law No. 898.

Unanimously Carried

- iii) By-law No. 961, Amendment to Zoning By-law No. 899

Motion #23-363

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Smith
Seconded by: Councillor Tilley

Council approves Third and Final Reading of By-law No. 961, Amendment to Zoning By-law No. 899.

Unanimously Carried

- iv) By-law No. 962, Amendment to Zoning By-law No. 899

Motion #23-364

Moved by: Councillor Sheppard
Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Smith

Council approves Third and Final Reading of By-law No. 962, Amendment to Zoning By-law No. 899.

Unanimously Carried

v) By-law No. 965, Amendment to Zoning By-law No. 899

Motion #23-365

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Smith
Seconded by: Councillor Tilley

Council approves Third and Final Reading of By-law No. 965, Amendment to Zoning By-law No. 899.

Unanimously Carried

vi) By-law No. 966, Amendment to General Plan By-law No. 898

Motion #23-366

Moved by: Councillor Tilley
Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Smith

Council approves Third and Final Reading of By-law No. 966, Amendment to General Plan By-law No. 898.

Unanimously Carried

8. OLD BUSINESS

None

9. NEW BUSINESS

a) Driving Under the Influence

Councillor Sheppard noted that there was a lot of complacency with people who drink and drive due to the lack of monitoring roads in the evening. He noted that this past weekend, there were a number of vehicles stopped and fines given, as people were not expecting Municipal Enforcement on the roads. Councillor Sheppard was pleased to hear that the RCMP and Municipal Enforcement would be conducting a joint effort again this weekend.

Councillor Sheppard noted that yesterday, the Government of Nunavut introduced liquor restrictions. He commented that the restriction limits were still very high and should be reduced.

Councillor Sheppard asked Administration, when developing the budget, to consider what else could be done to provide additional safety on the streets. He noted there was also a problem with open alcohol during the summer months. Councillor Sheppard expressed concern with the length of time abandoned vehicles were being left on the roadside and asked what could be done to have them removed within a timely manner.

Councillor Nattaq agreed that a plan needed to be developed to address the issue and consideration should be given to an overall solution.

Steve England, Chief Administrative Officer, pointed out that having Municipal Enforcement shifts during Friday and Saturday nights was a short-term solution. He noted that during budget development and review, staff would look at additional Municipal Enforcement night shifts during the week. Mr. England commented that discussions would be taking place with Community and Government Services, Department of Justice and the RCMP to develop a public safety program and plan, which would be presented to Council at a later date. He noted that public safety was more than drinking and driving.

Councillor Sheppard asked Administration to provide Council with information relating to existing by-laws for removing crashed vehicles from adjacent streets, to ensure that there were mechanisms in place to remove them in a timely manner.

Rod Mugford, City Administrator, advised that the by-laws currently in place were structured through the authority of the *Traffic Safety Act*, which allows removal of a vehicle from the roadway if it causes significant hazard to public safety. He noted that unfortunately, leaving the vehicles roadside was a result of RCMP investigations. Mr. Mugford indicated that Municipal Enforcement was unable to remove a vehicle until the RCMP advised that it was not needed for an investigation. Mr. Mugford explained that if a vehicle was abandoned and not posing a hazard, the owner is contacted and given 72 hours notice to remove the vehicle. If a vehicle is not removed after 72 hours, Municipal Enforcement can have the vehicle removed.

Mr. Mugford explained that Municipal Enforcement uses the Traffic Safety By-law, Snow Removal By-law and Unsightly Land By-law, which is sufficient legislation. He noted that additional communication was required with the RCMP to curtail the number of vehicles left along the side of the road.

Deputy Mayor Smith expressed concern with abandoned vehicles being a public safety risk, as children were jumping on top of them and jumping on the glass.

Mr. Mugford agreed that children jumping on vehicles was a public safety risk. He noted that when he presented this as a public safety risk, he was told that the Act says it has to be an imminent threat to public safety.

Mr. Mugford explained the process of removing a vehicle, starting with issuing a 30-day notice and then a two-week notice. He indicated that after that time, the City can remove the vehicle and the associated cost collected from the owner. He noted that when the City removes a vehicle, it must be held for a specified time under the *Lien Keepers Act* before it can be disposed of.

Mr. Mugford advised that there were a number of abandoned vehicles and unsightly properties, which have been separated into zones and assigned to a Municipal Enforcement Officer. He noted that this was a large undertaking and in some instances, property owners have been taken to court and were successful in getting the properties cleaned up.

Mayor Awa thanked staff for the explanation and noted that staff would bring back a report to present to Council for review and discussion.

b) Vacant Council Seat

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

Mayor Awa noted that the vacant Council seat must be filled and asked for direction from Council.

Councillor Nattaq expressed concern regarding two councillors being related and sitting on Council. He suggested to call for an Expression of Interest from all residents who were eligible to stand for election to fill the vacant Council seat.

Councillor Stevenson felt that prior to any decision being made to replace the current vacancy, that a policy should be developed to fill such vacancies.

Motion #23-367

Moved by: Councillor Stevenson

Seconded by: Councillor Sheppard

Council directs Administration to develop a policy that outlines the procedure to fill vacant Council seats to be presented to Council for review and discussion.

Unanimously Carried

Councillor Sheppard spoke about the importance of having a policy to fill vacant Council seats.

Deputy Mayor Smith returned to the Council Chambers.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

11. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) **Nunavut Research Institute – Application: “Current State of School Counselling Approach Enhancing the Educational Success of Nunavut Youth” from January 8, 2024 to April 24, 2024, Maude Bertrand-Bourgeois, University de Saint-Boniface, Winnipeg, Manitoba**

Motion #23-368

Moved by: Councillor Tilley
Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Smith

Nunavut Research Institute – Application: “Current State of School Counselling Approach Enhancing the Educational Success of Nunavut Youth” from January 8, 2024 to April 24, 2024, Maude Bertrand-Bourgeois, University de Saint-Boniface, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Unanimously Carried

- b) **Nunavut Research Institute – Application: “The Nanuk Narratives: Inuit Voices on the Polar Bear Project” from December 2023 to March 2026, Project Led by the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (Jason Akearok, Iqaluit); Torngat Wildlife Plants and Fisheries Board (Jamie Snook and David Borish, Happy-Valley Goose Bay); Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board (Tommy Palliser); Affiliated with Memorial University; Other Nunavummiut Involved – Pangnirtung HTO (Simeonie Keenainak, Mark Kilabuk); Filmmaker David Poisey, Pangnirtung; Solomon Awa, Iqaluit; Pitsiula Kilabuk, Pangnirtung and Public Health Researcher Amy Caughey, Iqaluit**

Motion #23-369

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Smith
Seconded by: Councillor Stevenson

Nunavut Research Institute – Application: “The Nanuk Narratives: Inuit Voices on the Polar Bear Project” from December 2023 to March 2026, Project Led by the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (Jason Akearok, Iqaluit); Torngat Wildlife Plants and Fisheries Board (Jamie Snook and David Borish, Happy-Valley Goose Bay); Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board (Tommy Palliser); Affiliated with Memorial University; Other Nunavummiut Involved – Pangnirtung HTO (Simeonie Keenainak, Mark Kilabuk); Filmmaker David Poisey, Pangnirtung; Solomon Awa, Iqaluit; Pitsiula Kilabuk, Pangnirtung and Public Health Researcher Amy Caughey, Iqaluit.

Unanimously Carried

- c) **Nunavut Research Institute – Application: “Canadian Strategic Patient-oriented Research Offered to Holders of the Health Research Training Platform” from November 28, 2023 to December 7, 2023, Dr. Pillai Riddell and Dr. Ruth Green, York University**

Motion #23-370

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Smith
Seconded by: Councillor Tilley

Nunavut Research Institute – Application: “Canadian Strategic Patient-oriented Research Offered to Holders of the Health Research Training Platform” from November 28, 2023 to December 7, 2023, Dr. Pillai Riddell and Dr. Ruth Green, York University.

Unanimously Carried

12. IN CAMERA SESSION

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

Motion #23-371

Moved by: Councillor Sheppard
Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Smith

Council goes In Camera at 7:01 p.m.

Unanimously Carried

Motion #23-372

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Smith
Seconded by: Councillor Sheppard

Council returns to Regular Session at 7:14 p.m. **Unanimously Carried**


13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion #23-373

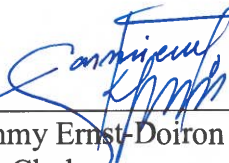
Moved by: Deputy Mayor Smith
Seconded by: Councillor Sheppard

Council adjourns at 7:15 p.m. **Unanimously Carried**



FOR:  Deputy Mayor
Kimberly Smith

Mayor Solomon Awa
Chair

FOR:  K. SARMIENTO
A/CITY CLERK

Tammy Ernst-Doiron
City Clerk

Approved by City Council on the 12th day of December 2023.

