

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF COBALT

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING COBALT COMMUNITY HALL August 15, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. MINUTES

Present:

Mayor: Angela Adshead

Councillors: Pat Anderson
Harry Cooper
Gary Hughes
Angela Hunter (Via Zoom)
Jim Starchuk
Doug Wilcox

Staff: S. Dalley, Town Manager/Clerk-Treasurer
D. Taylor, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer
C. Beaudoin, Administrative Clerk

Media Moderator

1. Call to Order

Mayor Adshead called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Mayor Adshead read from a prepared statement:

Before we begin our Council meeting, I want to make a statement.

As members of this Council. We were each required to swear and oath of office, and it is an expectation of the public and the provincial government that we take our oath seriously. I think it is important to remind ourselves that the oath we took obligated us to exercise our elected office truly, faithfully and impartially to the best of our knowledge and ability.

We as a Council have not been fulfilling our obligations as we have sworn to do. At this table, we have allowed items to be inappropriately added to an agenda without providing proper notice to the public or providing municipal staff the time to prepare reports to help our decision making.

We have allowed Councillors to disrespect one another and municipal staff. We have allowed micromanaging of the Town Manager and the municipal employees who report to him.

There is no place at this table for personal agendas or to air personal grievances. There is a place for respectful debate of a matter or an issue before us and making decisions that are in the best interest of the Town. There is no place at this table for micromanaging our Town Manager or those who report to him. Nor is there a place to performance manage the Town Manager or his employees in an open public forum. There is a place at this table for us to adopt service level policies and set performance expectations for the Town Manager and hold him accountable to achieve those expectations.

Relying on doing things, the way we have always done them has resulted in our continued dysfunction.

August 15, 2023

It is time for us to take steps to stop this cycle of dysfunction. From now on, we all need to come to council meetings with an open mind and be prepared to be persuaded.

From now on we have to focus on the overall success of our Town not what we believe is the best for ourselves or our families even if that means we have to make decisions that negatively impact ourselves or our families.

I apologize to the public that we have not better represented them at this table and that we have struggled to move forward even after significant training about our roles and responsibilities.

The remainder of this Council term will be challenging and I for one do not want to waste our time and taxpayers money on Councillors behaving poorly at meetings. I believe in our community, and I want to see us be successful fifty years from now.

For us to do that, we need to stop tearing each other apart, undermining our staff or sticking in our nose in matters that are not for us to be involved in. I am not asking for you to like each and every person at our table or employed by our Town – I am asking that you respect each other as elected officials and respect our staff. Please consider the impact of your statements at this table and put yourself in the other person's shoes before you speak.

Tonight, I am asking each of you to be committed to the future of Cobalt and putting aside petty resentment or long-term grudges. It is time for us to roll up sleeves and help our community be the best it can be.

Thank you.

Mayor Adshead requested affirmation from each Councillor and each Councillor said yes.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

None

3. Public Meetings

None

4. Deputations/Delegation

None

5. Approval/Amendment of Meeting Agenda

RESOLUTION No. 2023-191

MOVED BY: Councillor Starchuk

SECONDED BY: Councillor Anderson

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approve the agenda of the Regular Meeting dated July 18, 2023 as amended.

CARRIED

6. Approval of Previous Council Minutes

RESOLUTION No. 2023-192

MOVED BY: Councillor Cooper
SECONDED BY: Councillor Anderson

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approve the following minutes as presented:

Regular Meeting – July 18, 2023
Committee of the Whole Meeting – August 1, 2023

CARRIED

7. Items for Council consideration

7.1 Cobalt Walking Trails

RESOLUTION No. 2023-193

MOVED BY: Councillor Hughes
SECONDED BY: Councillor Anderson

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council give authorization to the Cobalt Historical Society to assume responsibility for the Cobalt Walking Trails including upgrades, replacing the signs and guide books as necessary and ensuring proper sign location and historical accuracy.

CARRIED

RESOLUTION No. 2023-194

MOVED BY: Councillor Cooper
SECONDED BY: Councillor Starchuk

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council accept the items for Council consideration as presented.

CARRIED

8. By-Laws and Agreements

8.1 By-Law No. 2023-20 – Amendment No. 3 to By-Law No. 2021-32 Traffic and Parking

RESOLUTION No. 2023-195

MOVED BY: Councillor Starchuk
SECONDED BY: Councillor Anderson

WHEREAS Council received Staff Report No. 2023.06.28 at the Committee of the Whole meeting, July 12, 2023 with recommendations for amendments to the Traffic and Parking By-Law;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law No. 2023-20 being an Amendment to the Traffic and Parking By-Law No. 2021-32;

READ a first and second time this 18th day of July 2023.

BE READ a third time and finally passed this 15th day of August 2023

AND FURTHER THAT the said By-Law be signed and sealed by the Mayor and Clerk.

CARRIED

8.2 By-Law No. 2023-21 – To Adopt an Encroachment Policy for the Town of Cobalt

RESOLUTION No. 2023-196

MOVED BY: Councillor Hughes
SECONDED BY: Councillor Starchuk

WHEREAS Council received Staff Report No. 2023.06.29 at the Committee of the Whole meeting, July 12, 2023 with a recommendation to adopt an Encroachment Policy for the Town of Cobalt;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law No. 2023-21 being a By-Law to Adopt an Encroachment Policy for the Town of Cobalt;

READ a first and second time this 18th day of July 2023.

BE READ a third time and finally passed this 15th day of August 2023.

AND FURTHER THAT the said By-Law be signed and sealed by the Mayor and Clerk.

DEFERRED

RESOLUTION No. 2023-197

MOVED BY: Councillor Cooper
SECONDED BY: Councillor Wilcox

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council has motioned to defer item 8.2 – By-Law No. 2023-21 – To Adopt an Encroachment Policy for the Town of Cobalt to the September 19th Regular Meeting of Council.

CARRIED

8.3 By-Law No. 2023-23 – Accessibility Plan

RESOLUTION No. 2023-198

MOVED BY: Councillor Cooper
SECONDED BY: Councillor Starchuk

WHEREAS the Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001 and the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 require Municipalities to have a 5-year plan to identify, prevent and remove barriers to accessibility in each Municipality's By-Laws, policies, practices and services;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law No. 2023-23 being a By-Law to Adopt an Accessibility Plan for the Corporation of the Town of Cobalt for the years 2023-2028;

BE TAKEN AS READ a first, second and third time this 15th day of August, 2023;

AND FURTHER THAT the said By-Law be signed and sealed by the Mayor and Clerk.

CARRIED

9. Unfinished Business

None

10. **New Business**

10.1 Schedule of Accounts

RESOLUTION No. 2023-199

MOVED BY: Councillor Anderson

SECONDED BY: Councillor Wilcox

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receives the following Schedules as presented:

Schedule No. 2023-14 in the amount of \$136,626.95.

Schedule No. 2023-15 in the amount of \$190,528.78.

CARRIED

10.2 Mayor's Report –

Mayor Adshead read from a prepared statement:

Something I would like to address from our last meeting as part of my report is the comments made regarding potential cost saving ideas. Some of these comments have caused considerable concern from the public and from Town Staff and I would like to publicly assure everyone that Council has not considered cost saving strategies and has certainly not endorsed the actioning of these ideas.

11. **Closed Meeting**

None

12. **Business Arising from Closed Meeting**

None

13. **Confirmation By-Law**

RESOLUTION No. 2023-200

MOVED BY: Councillor Hughes

SECONDED BY: Councillor Anderson

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law No. 2023-24 being a By-Law to confirm the proceedings of Council of the Corporation of the Town of Cobalt be taken as read a first, second and third time this 15th day of August 2023;

AND FURTHER THAT the said By-Law be signed and sealed by the Mayor and Clerk.

CARRIED

14. **Adjournment**

RESOLUTION No. 2023-201

MOVED BY: Councillor Wilcox

SECONDED BY: Councillor Cooper

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Regular Meeting of Council be adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

CARRIED

Mayor

Clerk