

**MINUTES OF A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF  
THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CORNER BROOK  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL  
MONDAY, 27 MARCH, 2023 AT 7:00 PM**

**PRESENT:**

Mayor	J. Parsons	R. Cumby, City Manager
Deputy Mayor	L. Chaisson	D. Charters, Director Community Engineering Development and Planning
Councillors:	P. Gill	T. Flynn, Director of Protective Services
	V. Granter	S. Maistry, Director of Finance and Administration
	B. Griffin	K. Patten, Director of Recreation Services
	C. Pender	J. Smith, Acting City Clerk
		J. Alexander, Sergeant-At-Arms

Absent with regrets: Councillor P. Keeping, D. Burden, Director of Public Works, Water and Waste Water Services

The Meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

**COW23-32 Approval of Agenda**

On motion by Councillor P. Gill, seconded by Councillor B. Griffin, it is **RESOLVED** to approve the agenda as circulated. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Councillor C. Pender made a statement addressing the previous council meeting (see attached).

**COW23-33 Approval of Minutes - Regular Meeting March 13, 2023**

Councillor V. Granter stated he would like to make a motion to amend the second paragraph of minute #23-35 of the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 13, 2023 to read:

“Councillor C. Pender was expelled from the meeting.”

Councillor V. Granter stated it may be necessary to call for the question on whether or not Mayor Parsons and Councillor C. Pender would be in conflict of interest.

Mayor Parsons declared that the motion is out of order as section 15.2 of the Rules of Procedure states “In the case of the exclusion of a member of Council, an entry shall be made in the minutes of the reason for such exclusion” and therefore the reason for an exclusion is required to be included in the minutes.

On motion by Councillor P. Gill, seconded by Councillor B. Griffin, it is **RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of March 13, 2023. **MOTION CARRIED. (Deputy Mayor L. Chaisson and Councillor C. Pender voted against the motion.)**

**COW23-34 Business Arising From Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

**COW23-35 Council Code of Conduct Policy**

On motion by Councillor C. Pender, seconded by Councillor V. Granter, it is **RESOLVED** to rescind the current Code of Conduct Policy for Mayor and Councillors and replace it with the proposed Code of Conduct Policy For Mayor and Councillors (Attachment B). **MOTION CARRIED.**

**COW23-36 Proclamations and Events**

The Mayor announced that the following proclamations were recognized:

- March 26th was declared Purple Day for Epilepsy

The Mayor also announced that the City was approved for \$1.5 million funding from the province for the Corner Brook Fire Department for a new Ladder truck.

**COW23-37 Finance & Administration Report**

Councillor P. Gill provided an update from Finance and Administration as follows:

- Detailed financial reports were provided for February 2023 highlighting the key categories for revenue and expenses against the City's budget;
- Deadline reminder - Business Tax is due March 31, 2023;
- Grants have been approved for the following - The Corner Brook Library & Corner Brook Kinsmen Club in support of signage and mapping for the Prince Edward RV Park.

**COW23-38 2023 Public Works Winter Summary To March 22, 2023**

Deputy Mayor L. Chaisson provided an update on the Public Works operations during February 21- March 22 as follows:

- Plows have been out plowing snow for 9 days from February 21- March 22;
- City Blowers have been out widening streets for 7 days;
- Loaders with baskets have been pushing back snowbanks at intersections and cleaning up cul de sacs for 8 days;
- Sidewalk clearing - bobcat was out for 15 days;
- Salt Used - 1900 tonnes, Sand Used - 2000 tonnes;
- Downtown clean up/sidewalks: Equipment was out three evenings/nights cleaning up downtown core;
- Reclaimer: crews put out 20 tonnes of recycled asphalt over three day shifts on West Street, Main Street, Mt. Bernard Ave, University Drive, and O'Connell Drive. Crews will continue patching until asphalt plants are open in May.

**COW23-39 Water and Wastewater Work Summary February 18th to March 20th, 2023**

Deputy Mayor L. Chaisson provided an update on Water and Wastewater operations from February 18 to March 20, 2023 as follows:

- received a total number of 54 complaints;
- recoverable works total cost \$1494.09;
- there were 8 water and wastewater repairs;
- general maintenance: replaced sump pump at Gilbert Automatic Flushing station, replaced air blower at Bio-Green, Wastewater Treatment Plant, completed 3rd round of fire hydrant snow clearing, ongoing leak detection;
- future maintenance - upgrade Scada system at depot, complete annual operational check on remaining pressure reducing stations, install new flow meter at Trout Pond Chlorination Station;
- Water Treatment Plant - The raw water quality improved throughout the month, following the weather event that occurred late January which allowed for a significant reduction in coagulant and soda ash usage.

**COW23-40 ATVs access to Lewin Parkway and North Shore Highway**

Councillor V. Granter provided an update regarding ATV Access to Lewin Parkway and the North Shore Highway. Both Protective Services and Public Works have met with the Department of Transportation and staff will be working on a proposal to seek approval to develop access points along the provincial roadways to connect Elizabeth Street and the North Shore Highway to our designated ATV trail system.

**COW23-41 Regional Smoke Alarm Project**

Councillor V. Granter provided an update regarding the Corner Brook Fire Department Regional Smoke Alarm Project. The Corner Brook Fire Department Deputy Chief has been working with other Fire Chiefs in the region on inter-related fire issues. As such, the Deputy Chief has designed a program to address the safety gap of "Smoke Alarms in the Sleeping Area of City's Homes built before year 2000". Homes built after the year 2000 were required to have smoke alarms installed in the sleeping areas of the home due to changes in the National Building Code.

**COW23-42 Protective Services Statistics for month of February 2023**

Councillor V. Granter provided an update on Protective Services statistics for the month of February 2023, as follows:

- Municipal Enforcement received 80 calls for service for by-law enforcement, taxi regulation, animal control and parking enforcement;

- Fire Department had a total of 42 incidents and the Fire Prevention Inspector conducted 21 commercial inspection, 4 home oxygen inspections;
- PSAP received a total of 2697 transferred calls and 3298 non-transferred calls.

Councillor V. Granter recognized the recent funding for the new ladder truck and says that the tender for the truck should be issues in the near future.

**COW23-43 Recreation and Tourism Update**

The Director of Recreation and Tourism provided an update on Recreation and Tourism operations as follows:

**Recreation**

- planning for playground updates, regular outdoor field operations;
- held a free St. Patrick's Day skate and a family movie day and a scavenger hunt;
- hosted U15 Provincial Volleyball tournament and clinics for Baseball NL;
- partnering with the YMCA to host the Youth Future Fair;
- planning a Seniors Spring Tea - more details to come;
- the rinks continue to be busy with tournaments and Senior Hockey;
- main arena will be hosting the Silver Blade 2023 Skate NL Star challenge event;
- Saltos will be hosting the 2023 Gymnastics NL Provincials.

**Tourism**

- the Town of Steady Brook and Marble Mountain hosted the 68th annual Ski Club of International Journalists conference. Corner Brook was pleased to host their Annual General Assembly at the Civic Centre. Their visit was a wonderful opportunity to raise the profile of Corner Brook and Western NL as a winter destination to an international audience.
- the Cruise Schedule 2023 has a record number of Cruise Ships calling, 34 ships with upward to 60,000 passengers and Crew will visit Corner Brook this year from May to November.
- the City will be participating in a Trade Show booth in collaboration with the Corner Brook Port and Cruise NL, at SeaTrade Cruise Global in Fort Lauderdale from March 27th -30th. Cruise NL will take advantage of this and will attend meetings with industry leaders from around the Globe to showcase and encourage ships to call our region.
- plans for this year's summer season including the Jiggs and Wheels summer festival are underway and work is continuing with the Strategic Tourism for Areas and Regions (STAR) Implementation Committee.

**COW23-44 Development, Planning and Community Services**

Councillor B Griffin provided an update on Development, Planning and Community Services operations as follows:

### **Development and Planning**

- 25 Poplar Road Vet Clinic is now completed;
- 14 West Street City Pharmacy project nearing completion;
- construction work and permits have been issued on a variety of projects including the Robins Donuts (Herald Avenue), Physiotherapy Business (Herald Avenue), 8 Unit Apartment Building (Dove's Road), new self-storage building (Lundrigan Drive), New Western Motor Sports Location, Doctors Office above City Pharmacy, The Shoe Company (Plaza), new office space (62 Broadway)
- IMSP and Development Regulations - consultant has submitted the Draft Municipal Plan and Development Regulations for Staff Review. Next steps will include a document provided by the consultant that can be reviewed by executive staff and council, as well as the public.

### **Business Development**

- YOLO Nomads Project (Remote Working) - destination hub is now active;
- Facade Appeal Comprehensive Enhancement (FACE) Program - up to \$10,000 in funding remains available, two FACE applications have been approved, one application is being reviewed and two Blade Sign applications have been approved.

### **Sustainable Development**

- Local Food Infrastructure Fund Community Greenhouse - 33ft Geodesic Dome Greenhouse, location will be behind the Centre for Research and Innovation, greenhouse kit should arrive in May, received \$100,00 in total funding, construction expected to start by mid-June and a student intern has been hired to support the planning of the interior of the space.
- STAR Trail Updates - Man in the Mountain and Cape Blow Me Down (Coppermine) to be multi-use trails, License to Occupy (LTO) has been issued and RFP will be sent out soon.
- Earth Day April 22 2023 – Repair Café Event. Planning is underway to have a community event where people who repair things will be available to answer questions about how to fix things which may otherwise end up at the land fill.

## **COW23-45 Capital Project and Engineering Committee Updates**

Councillor C. Pender provided an update on Capital Works and Engineering as follows:

- Regional Recreation Centre - Pool masonry wall complete, locker room areas approximately 90% complete, structural steel 95%, concrete decking complete on level 2, slab on grade complete on level 1 with the exception of around columns, steel studs nearly complete for Admin area level 2, work has started on the fitness

- room area, contractor working on spray fire proofing for level 1 daycare area, estimated completion early 2024;
- Citadel Drive PRV Upgrades - Mechanical HVAC and electrical very near completion, piping installation 80% complete and project 75% complete to date;
- Bell's Brook Culvert Phase 2 - project 60% complete, revised date to open road is April 3, 2023, curb & asphalt to be completed by June, 2023;
- Great Trail Enhancement Phase 1 - tender closed on January 12th, contract awarded to West Coast Excavating and Equipment Co. Ltd, construction to start in Spring 2023;
- O'Connell Drive at Crestview Ave - tender awarded to ECO Contracting Ltd March 14, 2023, project to begin late spring;
- Mt Bernard Avenue Reconstruction - work includes new underground infrastructure, curb/gutter, side walk (1 side) and asphalt, approx. 14% of contract completed to date, Work Zone 2 to commence when weather/conditions permit;
- Future Projects - Deep Gulch Brook Storm Sewer Replacement RFP closed March 21 2023 and received 5 consultant proposals that will be reviewed and evaluated by review committee, Great Trail Enhancement Phase 2 waiting for funding agreement from Infrastructure Canada, Engineering Studies - Water System Audit (no funding option, possible phased approach) and Transportation Study (RFP for consultant to be released in spring 2023).

**COW23-46 Youth Advisory Committee Update**

Deputy Mayor L. Chaisson provided a Youth Advisory Committee update as follows:

- February 20th meeting included preparation for the Winter Carnival and planning different activities that the Committee would attend and get involved with;
- Two of the Youth Advisory Committee members Max Pittman and Teagan Dwyer were the ambassadors for 2023 Winter Carnival;
- March 22nd the Committee held a working meeting to prepare for the Corner Brook Youth Future (CBYF) Fair that will be held at the Civic Centre on March 28th.

The Deputy Mayor also congratulated Youth Advisory Committee member and recent Winter Carnival 2023 Ambassador, Max Pittman on being awarded the Loran Award Scholarship for \$100,000 scholarship.

**COW23-47 Regional Recreation Center Change Order NO. 31**

On motion by Councillor C. Pender, seconded by Councillor V. Granter, it is **RESOLVED** that the City of Corner Brook Council approve Change Order No. 31 between the City of Corner Brook and Pomerleau Inc. for an increase of \$240,732.77 (HST Included) for the Corner Brook Regional Recreation Center. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**COW23-48 Regional Recreation Center Change Order No. 32**

On motion by Councillor C. Pender, seconded by Councillor V. Granter , it is **RESOLVED** that the City of Corner Brook Council approve Change Order No. 32 between the City of Corner Brook and Pomerleau Inc. for the increase of \$83,370.20 (HST included) for the Corner Brook Regional Recreation Center. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

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City Clerk

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Mayor

## Councillor Pender Statement

Mr. Mayor, I was first elected to Corner Brook City Council in 1997. I've been lucky to be a member of this council for 17 of the past 26 years. My statement today is reflective of that full period of time, and my intention in this statement is to state my view on what happened in our last meeting, and to try to find a way forward for the good of the City.

Each of us sitting here today – every Councillor, and you, Mr. Mayor – was elected by the residents of the City. It's incumbent upon us to bring our best to the table. The residents did not get that in our last meeting.

Mr. Mayor, I'm not going to comment on the procedural fairness of my being ejected from the meeting last time. What I am going to comment on is your behavior when I was ejected. Specifically, you very loudly banged the gavel, you yelled "quiet!" at me, and you yelled "out!, out" your voice was raised, your face appeared angry, and worst of all, after I left the room, you were laughing.

Mr. Mayor, that is not leadership.

I believe that the residents of the City can see for themselves that your behavior was unprofessional and inappropriate. Anyone can watch it and see for themselves. It has no place anywhere.

I think you should apologize for the manner in which you behaved, for the impact that you had upon me, and for the negative light in which your behavior cast the City.

I'll also briefly speak to the substance of what was being discussed at our last meeting. To me, on the surface, we were discussing the Code of Conduct. We were actually discussing, at least in my opinion, something more fundamental.

When I ran for council in 2021, my intention was to make a contribution to the City. My commitment remains the same. My experience on Council since fall 2021 has been that things run very differently at City Hall than they did in years past. On previous councils, debate and discussion at the Council was not only the norm – it was encouraged. That was especially true for matters of policy. That is why it is frustrating to me when big policy items, like a Code of Conduct, are presented to councillors in a full draft form before we are asked to give any opinion on it whatsoever. This means that staff have already been asked to devote hours to it, with no early direction given from Council.

That's not how it is supposed to work.

Council is responsible for the direction of the City. We should be asked what we think about policy issues early in the process so that our hardworking staff have an idea of what we, as the elected representatives, are looking for. Instead, it seems like staff are going to work under someone's direction – and it's not Council's. On a related note, 18 months in, we have yet to determine any priorities that we have as a Council. That is not good for the City.

So what's the result? When documents are sent in nearly finished form, I feel that I am just being asked



to approve something. When I question things, you, Mr. Mayor often interrupt me, or question my motives. It's not acceptable. When it pertains to policy, we should all have a chance to weigh in early on and hear each other's comments.

It's not our role on Council to get involved in the day-to-day operations. Big stuff like policy? We should absolutely be involved, and it should be early.

When people are not involved in the process, it can also lead to conflict when they are being asked to approve something.

I'd like the voices of ALL councilors to be heard. What does that look like?

First of all, don't just ask us to respond to something that's already been drafted, and to do so by e-mail. E-mail comments are not real discussion. Ask me for input early on, and I'll feel included, and I'll feel that my voice is valued. I suspect others will too.

Secondly, let's not be afraid of disagreement. It happens. It can be healthy. When I sat in that Chair, Mr. Mayor, we dealt with very contentious issues – far more than this one – and disagreement happened. There is no reason to take that personally. There is no call to interrupt people as they speak or to question their motives.

Thirdly, it's important to listen. Others have experience that you do not have.

So I say this to my fellow Councillors, and to you too, Mr. Mayor – I'm prepared to do my part to move forward and to be collaborative. As an example, I think Councillor Gill made a valid and important point in our last meeting about sharing a draft rather than presenting it orally.

What I ask in exchange is that you apologize for your behavior, and that you seek to involve ALL members of Council early so that we can move this City in a positive direction.