

Council Meeting, March 11, 2021
Minutes of a Meeting of the Council
of the Town of Kippens, Held via Zoom & Posted to Facebook
March 11, 2021 at 6:22 PM

Members Present	Mayor	Debbie Brake-Patten
Deputy Mayor	Leon Benoit (In Office)	Councillors
		Tim Alexander
		Shawn Boyd (In Office)
		Heather Shears (In Office)
Regrets	Councillors	John Dawson
Wayne Howlett		
Also Present	Town Clerk	Debbie Cormier (In Office)

Motion #33/21: Motion by Deputy Mayor Benoit, seconded by Councillor Shears, be it hereby resolved to adopt the February 11, 2021 Privileged Council Meeting Minutes.

In favour: Mayor D. Brake-Patten, Deputy Mayor L. Benoit and Councillors T. Alexander, S. Boyd, and H. Shears

Opposed: 0 Abstaining: 0 Motion Carried

Motion #34/21: Motion by Councillor Alexander, seconded by Councillor Boyd, be it hereby resolved to adopt the February 11, 2021 Council Meeting Minutes.

In favour: Mayor D. Brake-Patten, Deputy Mayor L. Benoit and Councillors T. Alexander, S. Boyd, and H. Shears

Opposed: 0 Abstaining: 0 Motion Carried

Motion #35/21: Motion by Councillor Boyd, seconded by Councillor Shears, be it hereby resolved to adopt the March 11, 2021 Council Meeting Agenda.

In favour: Mayor D. Brake-Patten, Deputy Mayor L. Benoit and Councillors T. Alexander, S. Boyd and H. Shears

Opposed: 0 Abstaining: 0 Motion Carried

Financial

Motion #36/21: Motion by Councillor Alexander, seconded by Councillor Boyd, be it hereby resolved to approve the accounts payable totaling \$90,164.01.

In favour: Mayor D. Brake-Patten, Deputy Mayor L. Benoit and Councillors T. Alexander, S. Boyd, and H. Shears

Opposed: 0 Abstaining: 0 Motion Carried

Motion #37/21: Motion by Councillor Alexander, seconded by Deputy Mayor Benoit, be it hereby resolved to approve to write-off a home-based business tax.

In favour: Mayor D. Brake-Patten, Deputy Mayor L. Benoit and Councillors T. Alexander, S. Boyd, and H. Shears

Opposed: 0 Abstaining: 0 Motion Carried

Motion #38/21: Motion by Councillor Alexander, seconded by Councillor Shears, be it hereby resolved to approve to write-off a home-based business tax.

In favour: Mayor D. Brake-Patten, Deputy Mayor L. Benoit and Councillors T. Alexander, S. Boyd, and H. Shears

Opposed: 0 Abstaining: 0 Motion Carried

Motion #39/21: Motion by Councillor Alexander, seconded by Councillor Boyd, be it hereby resolved to defer the request from Whaleback Nordic Ski Club for a financial donation pending finance committee meeting.

In favour: Mayor D. Brake-Patten, Deputy Mayor L. Benoit and Councillors T. Alexander, S. Boyd and H. Shears

Opposed: 0

Abstaining: 0

Motion Carried

Motion #40/21: Motion by Deputy Mayor Benoit, seconded by Councillor Boyd, be it hereby resolved that Council approve, in good faith, reimbursement of legal costs for a staff member to seek legal opinion regarding the council sanctioned investigative report with a cap up to \$2,000.00.

Mayor Brake-Patten questioned whether this motion should be a recommendation of the finance committee and stated it would need a five out of seven vote. Deputy Mayor stated that the request has been made a number of times and put on the back burner. Two of the three HR committee members met and held a discussion on the request. The Town lawyer advised that this is a common practise amongst municipalities to assist staff provided that there is a cap. Mayor Brake-Patten claims no knowledge of what is going on. Councillor Alexander claims this is the first time he has heard of the request. Councillor Shears has no idea as well. Deputy Mayor Benoit reminded council that the request was on the February 2021 agenda as well but was deferred pending the harassment policy. Mayor Brake-Patten claims she did not have the opportunity to ask for reimbursement of legal fees. Deputy Mayor Benoit stated that if that request comes in it will be dealt with at that time. HR committee is hoping to have a meeting next week regarding the harassment policy at which time this financial issue can be discussed as well.

Deputy Mayor Benoit and Councillor Boyd withdrew the motion.

New Business

Permits

Additional Business

Mayor Brake-Patten stated she has the stop work order for 26 Island Pond Drive back on the agenda. Unfortunately, not all of council is present to vote on it.

Motion #40/21: Motion by Councillor Shears, seconded by Councillor Alexander, be it hereby resolved to defer the motion for the stop work order at 26 Island Pond Drive.

In favour: Mayor D. Brake-Patten, Deputy Mayor L. Benoit and Councillors T. Alexander, S. Boyd and H. Shears

Opposed: 0

Abstaining: 0

Motion Carried

Mayor Brake-Patten asked to have the acceptance of the Murphy Report deferred until the investigation is complete. Deputy Mayor Benoit clarified that the Murphy Report does not need to be accepted by council.

Motion #41/21: Motion by Deputy Mayor Benoit, seconded by Councillor Boyd, be it hereby resolved to accept the February 8, 2021 Roads & Maintenance Meeting Minutes.

In favour: Mayor D. Brake-Patten, Deputy Mayor L. Benoit and Councillors T. Alexander, S. Boyd, and H. Shears

Opposed: 0 Abstaining: 0 Motion Carried

Mayor Brake-Patten read the proclamation for Purple Day for Epilepsy.

Mayor Brake-Patten discussion her participation in a session on the Health Accord.

Committee Reports

Recreation/Fire Department

Councillor H. Shears had nothing to report.

Roads & Maintenance/ Planning & Development

Deputy Mayor Benoit reported that the operators are pushing back snow on the roads. Snow clearing has been second to none this year with very few complaints. The outside workers are doing an excellent job. Deputy Mayor Benoit thanked the town clerk for all her hard work filling in as Acting Town Manager, No permits were issued this month.

Roads & Maintenance/ Planning & Development Councillor

Boyd had nothing to report.

Finance/Fire Department

Councillor Alexander reported that the fire department has not been training the last three weeks due to the COVID restrictions but they are still there if an emergency arises.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Brake-Patten reminded council that MNL is looking for resolutions for setting policy. Mayor Brake-Patten advised council that there was a letter of concern or complaint in their package from contractor Patrick Lannon. An email was sent to councillors requesting a response to the letter and discuss at a special meeting. Mayor did not hear from anyone as to how to address the issue. Council must take this seriously and address the issue and keep the contractors happy. No letter of concern is good for any town.

Deputy Mayor Benoit agreed that this issue should be dealt with in a special meeting.

Mayor Brake Patten congratulated Shilo Chislett on being selected to the Canada female baseball team at the 2022 Canada Summer Games from August 6-21, 2022.

Deputy Mayor Benoit acknowledged the passing of fellow councillor of Stephenville Mike Tobin who presence in the Municipalities will be missed. Condolences to his family.

Motion #42/21: Motion by Deputy Mayor Benoit, seconded by Councillor Boyd, be it hereby resolved to adjourn the Council Meeting.

In favour: Mayor D. Brake-Patten, Deputy Mayor L. Benoit and Councillors T. Alexander, S. Boyd, and H. Shears

Opposed: 0 Abstaining: 0 Motion Carried

Council meeting adjourned at 6:53 pm. Next regular council meeting is scheduled for April 8, 2021.

Debbie Cormier, Town Clerk

Debbie Brake-Patten, Mayor