



**Minutes of Council Meeting
April 24, 2023 6:30 PM**

Town Hall, Council Chambers – 105 Elgin St. W. Arnprior, ON.

Council and Staff Attendance

Council Members Present (In-Person):

Mayor Lisa McGee
County Councillor Dan Lynch
Councillor Tom Burnette
Councillor Chris Toner
Councillor Chris Couper
Councillor Billy Denault

Council Members Present (Electronic):

Council Members Absent:
Councillor Lynn Grinstead

Town Staff Present

Robin Paquette, CAO
Maureen Spratt, Town Clerk
Jennifer Morawiec, GM Client Services /
Treasurer
Graeme Ivory, Director of Recreation
Emily Stovel, Manager of Culture/Curator
Oliver Jacob, Client Services Coordinator

1. Call to Order

Mayor Lisa McGee called the Regular Council Meeting to order at 6:30 PM and welcomed those present.

2. Roll Call

The roll was called, with all Members of Council being present with the exception of Councillor Grinstead.

3. Land Acknowledgement Statement

Mayor Lisa McGee asked everyone to take a moment to acknowledge and show respect for the Indigenous Peoples as traditional stewards of the land we operate on, by stating:

I would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we work and gather is the traditional unceded territory of the Anishinaabe People. This Algonquin Nation have lived on this land for thousands of years, long before the arrival of the European settlers, and we are grateful to have the opportunity to be present in this territory.

4. Adoption of Agenda

Resolution Number 137-23

Moved by Dan Lynch

Seconded by Tom Burnette

Be It Resolved That the amended agenda for the Regular Meeting of Council dated Monday, April 24, 2023, be adopted.

Resolution Carried

5. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest

None

6. Question Period

None

Minutes of Council Meeting

7. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

Resolution Number 138-23

Moved by Chris Couper

Seconded by Billy Denault

That the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council listed under Item 7 (a) on the Agenda be adopted.

Resolution Carried

8. Awards/Delegations/Presentations

Delegation

- i. Re-engaging Community-Council Dialogue on Cell Tower-Related Concerns. Janneka Beeksma advised the delegation in attendance wishes to re-engage community-council dialogue on cell tower-related concerns. Beeksma requested that Council develop and implement a by-Arnprior, for Arnprior protocol, with input from the community that takes into account the collective and individual community needs, a protocol that can cooperate with industry and communications requirements while not sacrificing other needs of the town and its residents. The presentation is attached as Appendix A, and forms part of these minutes.

9. Public Meetings

None

10. Matter Tabled/ Deferred/ Unfinished Business

None

11. Notice of Motions

None

12. Staff Reports

a) Recreation User Fees and Charges

Resolution Number 139 -23

Moved by Billy Denault

Seconded by Chris Couper

That Council adopt a by-law implementing the proposed changes to Schedule K – Recreation Facility Use & Programs of the User Fees and Charges By-law; and

That Council authorize staff to implement policies and procedures for a costing model for Hybrid User Groups.

Resolution Carried

b) Request for Enforcement Assistance – Gillies Grove Nature Reserve

Resolution Number 140-23

Moved by Dan Lynch

Seconded by Tom Burnette

That Council authorizes by-law enforcement of off-leash dogs in Gillies Grove Nature Reserve.

Resolution Carried

Minutes of Council Meeting

- c) Municipal Grants Application – Arnprior & District NeighbourLink Fountain
Resolution Number 141-23
Moved by Billy Denault
Seconded by Chris Couper
That Council approve the grant request submitted by the Arnprior & District NeighbourLink Fountain for \$3,000 to be funded from Municipal Grants Account (1-5-7600-6999); and

Further That Council approves the in-kind support (single) request waiving the landfill voucher fees for 15 landfill vouchers (total value of \$50.00) for the Arnprior & District NeighbourLink Fountain.

Resolution Carried

Mayor McGee vacated the chair at 7:23 p.m.
Mayor McGee returned to the chair at 7:26 p.m.

- d) Proclamation – Emergency Preparedness Week (May 7 to 13, 2023)
Resolution Number 142-23
Moved by Tom Burnette
Seconded by Chris Toner
That Council proclaim May 7th to 13th, 2023 as Emergency Preparedness Week in the Town of Arnprior.

Whereas Emergency Preparedness Week is a national awareness initiative that has taken place annually since 1996; and

Whereas Emergency Preparedness Week encourages Canadians to take three simple steps to become better prepared to face a range of emergencies:

1. Know the risks
2. Make a Plan
3. Get an Emergency Kit; and

Whereas this awareness initiative is a collaborative event undertaken by the provincial and territorial emergency management organizations supporting activities at the local level in conjunction with Public Safety Canada and partners; and

Whereas the Town of Arnprior Fire Prevention Office has been raising awareness throughout the community in support of Emergency Preparedness Week; and

Now Therefore, I, Lisa McGee, Mayor of Arnprior, do hereby proclaim May 7-13, 2023 as Emergency Preparedness Week in the Town of Arnprior, and encourage all residents to learn more about preparing for an emergency (know the risks, make a plan, get an emergency kit) and understand the importance of emergency preparedness.

Resolution Carried

- e) Proclamation – International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia (May 17th, 2023)
Resolution Number 143-23
Moved by Chris Couper
Seconded by Dan Lynch

Minutes of Council Meeting

That Council proclaim May 17th, 2023 as International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia in the Town of Arnprior.

Whereas the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Ontario Human Rights Code recognizes that no one can be discriminated against on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity or expression;

Whereas Ontario is a society open to everyone, including lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people (LGBTQ+) and to all other people who identify with sexual diversity and the multiplicity of gender identities and expressions;

Whereas, despite recent efforts towards greater inclusion of LGBTQ+ people, homophobia and transphobia are still present in modern society;

Whereas May 17th is the International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia, and the date is recognized as such in many countries;

Now Therefore, I, Lisa McGee, Mayor of Arnprior, do hereby proclaim May 17, 2023, as the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia in the Town of Arnprior, and encourage all residents to act to address homophobia and transphobia when they see it while also recognizing the many contributions that LGBTQ+ peoples make to bolster our local community every day.

Resolution Carried

f) Proclamation – First Responders Day, May 1st, 2023

Resolution Number 144-23

Moved by Dan Lynch

Seconded by Chris Couper

That Council proclaim May 1st, 2023 as First Responders Day in the Town of Arnprior.

Whereas Bill 15, “An Act to Proclaim First Responders Day” was adopted by the Legislature of Ontario on December 10th, 2013 designating May 1st of each year as ‘First Responders Day’ in the Province of Ontario; and

Whereas First Responders are those men and women who, in the early stages of an emergency, are responsible for the protection and preservation of life, property, evidence and the environment; and

Whereas First Responders include police officers, firefighters, paramedics, medical evacuation pilots, dispatchers, nurses, doctors, emergency medical technicians, military personnel, road maintenance personnel and emergency managers; and

Whereas First Responders are both volunteers and professionals who dedicate their lives to public service, and whose skills often make the difference between life and death; and

Whereas the services, dedication and commitment of First Responders deserves to be recognized and honoured; and

Minutes of Council Meeting

Whereas the Town of Arnprior employs or contracts the services of many First Responders;

Now Therefore, I, Lisa McGee, Mayor of Arnprior, do hereby proclaim May 1st, 2023 as “First Responders Day” in the Town of Arnprior and urge all residents to thank those men and women who have dedicated their lives to keeping our community and homes safe and protected.

Resolution Carried

13. Council Committee Reports and Minutes

a) Mayors Report

Mayor McGee reported on the following:

- Attendance at two sessions, on April 19th, with Ken Foulds, Re/fact Consulting on Housing Needs Assessment. The first session with developers and the second with community groups. Mayor McGee noted she was very pleased with the great engagement and thoughtful dialogue.
- Along with County Councillor Lynch, Councillor Toner, County of Renfrew representatives attended MetaLigna to see their affordable housing options.
- Enjoyed hosting a grade 5/6 class from AJ Charbonneau. Following a presentation there was thoughtful input, comments and questions about park planning, sidewalk snow removal and what it is like to be Mayor.

b) County Councillors Report

County Councillor Lynch reported the following from Renfrew County Council:

- Echoed Mayor’s comments that county staff, including Craig Kelly, Jason Davis, Laura Lepine, David Wybou and Melissa Marquardt along with Mayor McGee, Councillor Toner, Lindsay Wilson, Oliver Jacob, Josie Scott and Darrel O’Shaughnessy visited MetaLigna on Wednesday, April 26, 2023.
- Darrell O’Shaughnessy will be making a presentation to County Council dealing with the Men’s Shed.
- Beginning May 1, 2023 ATV’s are permitted on the Algonquin Trail.

14. Correspondence & Petitions

a) Correspondence Package – I-23-APR-08

Resolution Number 145-23

Moved by Billy Denault

Seconded by Dan Lynch

That the Correspondence Package Number I-23-APR-08 be received as information and filed accordingly.

Resolution Carried

County Councillor Lynch noted the following items:

- Page 3 - The Ontario government is investing an additional \$202 million annually in homelessness prevention programs to help those experiencing or at risk of homelessness and to support community organizations delivering supportive housing. With this increase the total yearly funding for this program is \$700 million.
- Page 6 – Ontario is to appoint an additional 40 adjudicators and hire five staff to improve service standards and continue to reduce active applications and decision timeframes at the Landlord and Tenant Board.

Minutes of Council Meeting

- Page 11 – The increased income eligibility threshold has been amended to: a four-person household with a before-tax income of \$84,872, or a couple with a before-tax income of \$60,014, for support through the Energy Affordability Program. Customers can also access the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program and receive up to \$600 in emergency assistance if they are behind on their electricity or natural gas bill and face having their service disconnected.
- Page 22 – Customers with Renfrew Hydro, effective May 01, 2023, can opt-in to a new Ultra-Low Overnight price that provides consumers with more ways to keep costs down, save money and take control of their energy bills.
- Page 26 - Ontario Provincial Parks will have 57 parks available for the day-use reservation service. Visitors can purchase their advance daily vehicle permit online at reservations@ontarioparks.com Walk-up permits will continue to be sold, subject to availability.

b) Correspondence Package – A-23-APR-07

Resolution Number 146-23

Moved by Billy Denault

Seconded by Chris Toner

That the Correspondence Package Number A-23-APR-07 be received and that the recommendation(s) outlined be brought forward for Council's consideration.

Resolution Carried

15. By-laws & Resolutions

By-laws

Resolution Number 147-23

Moved by Dan Lynch

Seconded Tom Burnette

That the following by-law be and is hereby enacted and passed:

- By-law Number 7379-23 – Amend 2023 User Fees and Charges By-law (Schedule K – Recreation Fees)

County Councillor Lynch requested a recorded vote.

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|-------------------------|-----|
| Councillor Denault | Yes |
| Councillor Couper | Yes |
| Councillor Toner | Yes |
| Councillor Burnette | Yes |
| County Councillor Lynch | Yes |
| Mayor McGee | Yes |

Resolution Carried

Resolutions

Request for Support –Town of Essex – Municipal Tax Sale Proceeds

Resolution Number 148-23

Moved by Billy Denault

Seconded by Chris Toner

That the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Arnprior receive the correspondence from the Town of Essex;

Minutes of Council Meeting

Whereas, prior to the enactment of the Modernizing Ontario's Municipal Legislation Act, 2017, Section 380(6) of the Municipal Act allowed for a municipality to retain surplus proceeds from tax sales within their jurisdiction; and,

Whereas the public tax sale process is burdensome to municipalities who invest a considerable amount of time and money recovering these proceeds for the potential sole benefit of the Crown in right of Ontario;

Therefore Be It Resolved That Council support the resolution passed by the Council of the Town of Essex urging the Government of Ontario to reinstate previous pre-2017 legislation that permitted a Municipality to apply for and retain the surplus proceeds from a tax sale in their jurisdiction; and,

Further That a copy of this resolution be sent to Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance; Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke MPP John Yakabuski; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); and all municipalities in the County of Renfrew.

Resolution Carried

Municipal Grant Application: Arnprior Optimistic Women's Club – Waive Rental Fees for Nick Smith Centre Community Hall (Trivia Night)

Resolution Number 149-23

Moved by Chris Couper

Seconded by Tom Burnette

That Council of the Corporation of the Town of Arnprior receive the Municipal Grant Policy Application from the Arnprior Optimistic Women's Club; and

Whereas the Arnprior Optimistic Women's Club is an eligible community organization under the Municipal Grants Policy;

Therefore Be It Resolved That Council supports the Arnprior Optimistic Women's Club request by providing in-kind support through waiving the rental fees for the Nick Smith Centre Community Hall (value of approximately \$450.00) for their Trivia Night event to be held on May 12th, 2023;

Further That the Arnprior Optimistic Women's Club be advised that it is mandatory to carry sufficient liability insurance and have the Town of Arnprior added as an additional insured for the event.

Resolution Carried

16. Announcements

County Councillor Lynch made the following announcement(s):

- The Arnprior Community Choir will be performing at Glad Tidings Church on May 12, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. and on May 13th, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.
- The Lionettes "Share the Wealth" tickets are sold out and the draw will be held on May 2, 2023
- Thank you to the community for their support in looking a missing child on April 20th. As well, thank you to Councillor Couper for the information provided on "What's Up Arnprior"

Minutes of Council Meeting

Councillor Toner made the following announcement(s):

- Thank you to the many residents for participating in Earth Day, tidying up the parks and trails. In particular, it was wonderful to see two young couples, new to town, less than one year, picking up garbage in a town they now call home. Again, thank you all for a job well done.

Councillor Denault made the following announcement:

- A reminder that the Next Cultural Night Market planning meeting is scheduled for May 4, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

Councillor Couper made the following announcement:

- Reiterated County Councillors' Lynch announcement on the missing youth. Within three hours the mother's post reached 110,000 people. It speaks to the power of our community. Thank you to all residents who collectively came together in search of the missing youth.

17. Media Questions

None

18. Closed Session

Resolution Number 150-23 (7:46)

Moved by Chris Couper

Seconded by Tom Burnette

That Council meet in closed session pursuant to discuss One (1) matter to discuss a personal matter about an identifiable individual including municipal or local board employees pursuant to Section 239(b) of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended. (Senior of the Year); Three (3) matter(s) regarding a proposed or pending acquisition of land by the municipality or local board pursuant to Section 239(2)(c) of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended. (Tax Sale); and One (1) matter to discuss a position, plan, procedure, criteria or instruction to be applied to any negotiations carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of the municipality or local board pursuant to Section 239(2)(k) of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended. (Bylaw Enforcement)

Resolution Carried

Resolution Number 151-23 (9:07 p.m.)

Moved by Dan Lynch

Seconded by Tom Burnette

That Council resume to Open Session

Resolution Carried

Resolution Number 152-23

Moved by Dan Lynch

Seconded by Tom Burnette

That Council direct staff to facilitate the presentation of Senior(s) of the Year.

Resolution Carried

Resolution Number 153-23

Moved by Billy Denault

Seconded by Chris Couper

Minutes of Council Meeting

That Council authorize staff to proceed to write off tax arrears greater than two years in arrears, pursuant to section 354(2) and (3) of the Municipal Act, 2001, recovering upper tier and school board portions and proceed with a second tax sale process within the two-year timeframe with the reduced minimum tender amounts to encourage bids for File 19-11 Carss St) and File 19-08 (25 Daniel St N) properties; and

That Council authorize staff to proceed as directed with regards to tax sale File 21-05.

Resolution Carried

Resolution Number 154-23

Moved by Dan Lynch

Seconded by Chris Toner

That as recommended by the LEG report, Council authorizes the CAO to negotiate an agreement with Municipal Law Enforcement Services (MLES) for the provision of By-law Enforcement Services, for a three-year term 2023-25 commencing January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2025, with the option to renew for two (2) additional one-year periods.

Mayor McGee voiced she was not comfortable making a decision at this time, and was seeking additional information. Mayor McGee called for a recorded vote.

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----|----|
| Councillor Denault | Yes | |
| Councillor Couper | | No |
| Councillor Toner | Yes | |
| Councillor Burnette | Yes | |
| County Councillor Lynch | Yes | |
| Mayor McGee | | No |

Resolution Carried

19. Confirmatory By-Law

Resolution Number 155-23

Moved by Billy Denault

Seconded by Tom Burnette

That By-law No. 7380-23 being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of the Regular Meeting of Council held on April 24, 2023 be and it is hereby enacted and passed.

Resolution Carried

20. Adjournment

Resolution Number 156-23

Moved by Billy Denault

Seconded by Chris Couper

That this meeting of Council be adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Resolution Carried

Signatures

Lisa McGee, Mayor

Maureen Spratt, Town Clerk

Good Evening your Worship and Councilors,

Thank you very much for taking time this evening to hear from us, some of your constituents, on an issue that is important to many people in Arnprior.

I am here simply to propose a solution that we believe would help Council and the community to make sure that cell tower issues like what happened in Arnprior last Spring do not happen again in our community.

Our proposal is very simple - to establish an Arnprior-designed, Arnprior-owned consultation process for the siting of this type of infrastructure in our town. This is typically referred to as a Tower or Antenna Siting Protocol (terms used interchangeably in this presentation and also seem to be interchanged in guiding resources).

Establishing these is a role Land Use Authorities can play, and is something that the Federal Government and the Eastern Ontario Regional Network - or EORN - both recommend municipalities develop.

I will briefly walk through what happened last year, which led us to caring about this issue and discovering that the absence of this type of protocol is a gap in Arnprior right now.

From there, I will briefly outline some ideas of how we could go about developing a process for our town.

Ultimately, I am asking for your leadership, as Town Council and Arnprior's Land Use Authority, to ensure that the residents of Arnprior are consulted on these decisions in a meaningful and accessible way.

We are all learners in this space. Our community was taken by great surprise last year. We are here today to ask that we continue to learn together with you, with the aim to develop a solution designed by and for our town.

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First, I will provide a very brief synopsis of the events last year that began this learning.

You'll likely remember that there was a fairly significant community upset last year over a proposed 40-meter tall cell tower on the Krown Rustproofing property.

Rogers, the proponent of the tower proposal, engaged an organization called CRINS to carry out a community consultation. CRINS did this in a way that was deeply flawed. They failed to meet their basic obligations set out in the federal regulations in a number of ways. We learned in this that even had they met the obligations, Arnprior residents really would not have been consulted in a way that made sense to our interests and needs.

I will use one example, which is about its inaccessibility. The process to provide input was complicated. There was a link to a website where there were documents about the proposal that were very difficult to understand. They spoke "legalese", not plain English, and the methods of reaching them was also very inaccessible. Not all within the areas that CRINS was obligated to consult even received a legal notice (which would guide to this website), and even that area they were obligated to consult was very small - much smaller than capturing those who would be impacted.

There are many aspects of the consultation that failed, and would have been inadequate even had requirements been met, but I do not want to belabor what was today and can follow up with more details if you would like. As a community, we had written a letter to CRINS articulating many of their failed obligations, but they never did respond.

Ultimately, the process CRINS followed left many unaware, confused, or frustrated. There was no form of clear and accessible information or communication, and we deserved this. Particularly in a town where there are many seniors, and where residents deeply care about the vitality of their community, accessible communications and consultations are vital.

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At the time, a petition was presented to the town, signed by over 800 residents. It first called for the rejection of that tower proposal, and second, called on Council to not allow this infrastructure to be built in close proximity to houses, schools, hospitals, daycares and the like in future.

The petition was given to the Town and we invite the Town to resurface it so you can see its exact wording, signatures, and comments left by residents.

We know that the first part of the petition was fulfilled and that that tower proposal will not go forward. But we also know that the consultation gaps that happened then still exist. The request today to develop an Arnprior-owned consultation system for the future is a solution that we see relates to the second part of the petition as we reflect on what led to the events of last Spring and think about how Arnprior could more proactively address these issues in future.

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So, this brings me to the request: We are asking for Council's leadership to establish a consultation process or "siting protocol", with community input, for all infrastructure like this in the town of Arnprior going forward.

Because Arnprior does not have its own protocol in place, the default one we experienced last year still applies. Falling to this is what is set out in the federal regulations when locally-owned processes aren't in place. It really doesn't have to be this way, and we want to suggest that the events of last Spring demonstrate that not having our own process in place leaves a huge gap that leaves you as Land Use Authority and us as residents of this town, vulnerable.

Many municipalities across Ontario have chosen to outline how they want this process to unfold in their jurisdictions. They have done this by establishing their own protocols. These locally-owned protocols are ultimately a way of making sure that the needs of the community are better heard and better served.

The Eastern Ontario Regional Network, which has been tasked to manage the Cell Gap Project to install over 300 towers in Eastern Ontario over the next five years, recommends that municipalities develop their own protocols in order that key areas of concern and need are considered when towers are inevitably proposed. I will read to you directly from the Guide they have developed: "While ultimately tower siting is a federally regulated process, municipalities can take some control by developing their own tower siting protocol. This can contain the municipality's preference for public consultation, establish timelines, identify areas of historic or environmental importance to the community, and identify other local preferences

for tower siting." EORN have included references to protocols that the City of Mississauga, Municipality of Dysart et Al, Township of North Dumfries, and Township of Seguin have developed, indicating they are available on google.

I will also highlight that the federal government, who carries ultimate jurisdiction for cell tower decisions, recommends that municipalities adopt siting protocols. Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada's website says that they - I quote - "encourage Land Use Authorities to develop local protocols to manage the process of identifying their own concerns, as well as those of the public they represent, regarding tower system modifications or installations." They go on to detail what this can inform.

There is strong precedent across Ontario, encouragement from other jurisdictions and authorities, and a wealth of resources and information Arnrior can learn from in looking to develop our own locally-owned consultation process or siting protocol.

Because the people of Arnrior love this town, and demonstrated our desire to be able to provide input into these types of decisions, we see no reason not to pursue developing a protocol for our town. In a smaller municipality like ours, as the Land Use Authority and residents together, we have a unique opportunity to be real stewards of our land and

community we live in, and this is a concrete way we can do that.

I am here to request that Council develop and implement a by-Arnprior, for Arnprior protocol, with input from the community, that takes into account our collective and individual community needs - one that can cooperate with industry and communications requirements while not sacrificing other needs of our town and residents.

I will close with a few next steps we would suggest to take this forward:

1. That Council or the Town carry out needed research so this can be done in a meaningful way that leaves no member of our community vulnerable. We would encourage you to engage with municipal counterparts where these protocols have been developed.
2. We would like to bring in at least one Ontario-based expert who specializes in work to do with protecting persons who can face illness, disability or impairment as a result of frequencies emitting from this infrastructure. This is important education on why leadership in this area is so important. We would very much like to see that the needs of children, seniors and other persons needing special accommodations are made central to any protocol developed for

Arnprior. There is an increasing amount of scientific information available on the very significant health impacts that can and do occur with exposure to electromagnetic frequencies, and we have learned that this is largely related to how frequently we are exposed to the frequencies and how intense they are, which is why considering placing this infrastructure near residential homes are decisions that must be taken so seriously.

Finally, if you are in agreement to pursue, we want to make sure that this work includes the Algonquin Trail land that passes through Arnprior because of its close proximity to many homes and because it is adjacent to the proposed tower last year. We already know that the tower situation in Arnprior is still under discussion and could include that land, and are unclear on the division of roles and responsibilities here.

With that, I will conclude with thanking you for your time, and thanking you for your openness to hearing from residents and seeking to collaborate and communicate with your town. We hope that this makes an important contribution to the way that you as Council lead our town, and to the way our town manages an important issue.

Thank you.