

The Corporation of the Township of Lucan Biddulph Special Meeting Minutes

Present: Mayor C. Burghardt-Jesson (Lucan Biddulph Council Chambers); Deputy Mayor D. Manders, Councillor A. Westman, D. Regan and P. Mastorakos (via electronic participation)

Also Present: R. Reymer-CAO and L. deBoer-Economic Development Officer (Lucan Biddulph Council Chambers); and T. Merner-Deputy Clerk, K. Langendyk-Treasurer, J. Little-Public Works Manager and T. Loyens-Deputy Treasurer (via electronic participation)

Call To Order

Mayor C. Burghardt-Jesson called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest & Nature Thereof

None.

Mayor C. Burghardt-Jesson advised this is Lucan Biddulph's first virtual council meeting. She noted that due to COVID-19 and the provinces declaration of emergency, new legislation has been passed which allows municipalities to run meetings virtually and have those elected officials in attendance count as quorum as well as give them the ability to vote. Mayor C. Burghardt-Jesson further added that in order to permit virtual meetings and electronic participation council must pass a revised procedural bylaw.

Staff Reports

CAO/Clerk

R. Reymer reviewed report no. CAO-06-2020 and advised the purpose of this meeting is to adopt the proposed amendment to the procedure bylaw to allow the electronic participation of council members during virtual meetings. He further advised that the recent legislation passed by the Province permits electronic participation, and voting on matters, in Council, Committee and local Area Board meetings only during times of emergencies. Electronic participation, without voting, has been allowed for some time under the Municipal Act, 2001. R. Reymer advised that next Tuesday's council meeting will be held with this same format and streamed Live over Lucan Biddulph's own dedicated YouTube channel. Many thanks to the County IT Department for setting this up for us.

1/ Procedure By-Law Amendment (Allowing for Electronic Participation during Declared Emergencies)

Moved by D. Regan

Seconded by D Manders

Resolved that the Council of the Township of Lucan Biddulph accepts the CAO's recommendation as presented in report no. CAO-06-2020 dated March 31, 2020 to adopt the amended procedure by-law to allow for electronic participation during meetings.

CARRIED

2/ Amendment to Procedure By-law

Moved by A. Westman

Seconded by P. Mastorakos

That if no one cares to speak to this By-law on its First, Second and Third Reading, that it be considered to have been read a First time and Passed, read a Second time and

Passed, read a Third time and Passed, and that it be numbered:

- *11-2020 Procedural By-law*

CARRIED

Finance

K. Langendyk reviewed report no. FIN-04-2020 regarding financial relief during the COVID-19 pandemic. She advised that the Treasury department would like to proceed with issuing the water/sewer bills as normal with the due date of April 16, 2020, however is recommending that the application of penalty and interest charges be deferred for a period of 90 days as well as waiving any NSF charges until June 30, 2020. K. Langendyk further noted that Pre-Authorized Payments (PAP) would continue unless residents contact the Township office by no later than April 13th if they wish to be removed from this PAP run.

R. Reymer advised that one additional item council may want to consider is deferral of the increase to water and sewer rates as approved at the March 3rd, 2020 council meeting.

Councillor D. Regan asked if the increase to water and sewer rates would be deferred until June 30th? Mayor C. Burghardt-Jesson advised staff has not made any recommendation in that regard. Councillor A. Westman advised he would be in support of deferring the increase until June 30th and Councillor D. Regan advised he would support as well.

R. Reymer noted that by deferring the increase to the next billing cycle we would be leaving the 2019 rates for this current billing cycle. He further added that we will need to revise the fees bylaw again to revert to the 2019 fees. K. Langendyk asked for clarity in deferring the rates until the next billing cycle or deferring rates until June 30th. Mayor C. Burghardt-Jesson advised for consistency purposes, deferral to June 30th seems appropriate.

Mayor C. Burghardt-Jesson asked staff to prepare a summary of what the impact on delaying the increase in water/sewer rates will have on the budget and advise council of same at the next regular meeting.

Councillor P. Mastorakos asked if council should discuss the comments received from residents regarding the increase to water/sewer rates and Mayor C. Burghardt-Jesson advised it is important to note that the increase in rates was discussed at an open public meeting on March 3rd, 2020 as per legislative requirements. She further noted that any public comments received thereafter are most likely due to the situation COVID-19 has presented us with today.

3/ Deferral of Interest, Penalty and Late Charges

Moved by A. Westman

Seconded by D. Regan

Resolved that the council of the Township of Lucan Biddulph accepts the CAO and Treasurer's recommendation as presented in report no. FIN-04-2020 dated March 31, 2020 to defer the application of late charges for water/sewer invoices for 90 days and waive any NSF charges until June 30th, 2020;

And further that the scheduled increase in water and sewer rates, as approved at the March 3rd, 2020 regular council meeting, be deferred until June 30th, 2020.

CARRIED

Mayor C. Burghardt-Jesson made a final comment and noted in this challenging time our residents appear to be doing their best at social distancing in our community which is great to see. She further added that two years ago today was the announcement of Kraft Hockeyville 2018 and many great memories of that achievement and celebration can be viewed on social media today which is nice to see during this difficult time. Mayor C. Burghardt-Jesson reminded residents to keep supporting our local businesses and remember to keep a distance of 6 feet from others.

4/ Confirming

Moved by D. Regan

Seconded by D. Manders

That if no one cares to speak to this By-law on its First, Second and Third Reading, that it be considered to have been read a First time and Passed, read a Second time and Passed, read a Third time and Passed, and that it be numbered:

- 12-2020 Confirming By-law

CARRIED

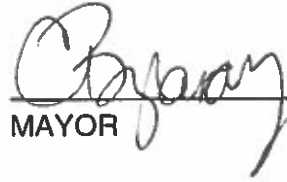
5/ Adjournment

Moved by D. Regan

Seconded P. Mastorakos

Resolved that the Special Council meeting be adjourned at 10:31 a.m.

CARRIED


MAYOR


CLERK