

MINUTES

Special Meeting of Council
Friday, March 27th, 2020 @ 1:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting

Present:	P. Farwell	Mayor
	T. Pollett	Deputy Mayor
	R. Anstey	Councillor
	G. Brown	Councillor
	B. Dove	Councillor
	O. Fudge	Councillor
	P. Woodford	Councillor

Advisory and Resource:	D. Chafe	CAO
	B. Hefford	Town Clerk
	J. Blackwood	Director of Engineering
	K. Hiscock	Director of Finance (A)
	K. White	Communications Officer

The meeting was called to order at 1:09 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

Council reviewed the agenda.

Motion #20-071

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Deputy Mayor Pollett and seconded by Councillor Dove to approve the agenda as presented.

In Favour: 7 Opposing: 0

Decision: Motion carried.

Mayor Farwell provided the following statement:

Over the past number of days, Council has been engaged in extensive discussions around assisting and supporting our residents in this unprecedented time.

The health and welfare of our residents is our top priority. We have been working closely with Central Health, the lead in this medical emergency, providing them full access to the Community Center to aid in delivering emergency health services. Council will continue to support Central Health in every way possible.

In addition, we remain in regular contact with our community partners and Emergency Operation Centre members, ensuring we are ready to activate our Emergency Plan should this event present a more immediate and dire threat to our community.

Operationally, Council has taken actions necessary to ensure the safety of our staff and the continuation of essential municipal services for the duration of this pandemic. This includes requiring some staff to work from home, segregating those with critical specialized skills and responsibilities, and cross training others to ensure redundancies are in place.

Interest Deferral

Council understands the financial pressures now facing many of our residents and businesses. We are committed to easing this burden. While the days and weeks ahead will allow a more fulsome discussion on options that Council has at its disposal, the March 31, 2020 tax payment deadline is just days away, prompting the need to take immediate action. As a result, Council will provide some immediate short-term relief by waiving interest on 2020 tax accounts to June 30, 2020. Additionally, residents availing of a pre-authorized payment plan may request an interest free deferral of monthly payments until July 1, 2020. Any tax agreements currently in place that do not accrue interest, will be deferred without interest or penalty.

It should be noted that the tax relief measures being presented here today are in response to the current situation and information available. We will continue to monitor the situation and explore other options as the length and severity of the event unfolds.

Motion #20-072

Interest Deferral

Moved by Councillor Brown and seconded by Councillor Woodford the date that interest is charged on 2020 taxes be changed from March 31, 2020 to June 30, 2020 and the interest will be charged a simple interest rate of 12% per annum and will be charged at the first day of each month on the outstanding principal.

In Favour: 7 Opposing: 0

Decision: Motion carried.

Motion #20-073

Interest Deferral - Pre-Authorized Payment Plan

Moved by Councillor Brown and seconded by Councillor Anstey that Taxpayers availing of the pre-authorized payment plan for their 2020 tax balances can request to defer their payments for April to June without being charged interest. If they re-apply for the pre-authorized payment plan by July 1st their monthly amount will be equal payments from July to December without interest charges.

In Favour: 7 Opposing: 0

Decision: Motion carried.

Community Centre Contract – Honeywell Change Order

Council has been presented with a Change Order from Honeywell Limited as better described in the attached document entitled, Change Order to Town of Gander and Honeywell Limited Letter of Intent Dated March 21, 2019. This Change Order is being presented to increase the original Letter of Intent amount by \$175,000 from \$536,314 to \$711,314 (plus applicable taxes). This approved change will facilitate the immediate commencement of construction drawings for Measure M1a – Ice Plan.

Motion #20-074

Community Centre Contract – Honeywell Change Order

Moved by Councillor Woodford and seconded by Councillor Brown that Change Order for the Town of Gander and Honeywell Limited Letter of Intent be approved as attached.

In Favour: 7 Opposing: 0

Decision: Motion carried.

The Director of Engineering advised that the Agreement will be reviewed by the Town Solicitor prior to signing. The objective is to ensure that the work is completed by the start of the 2020 ice season. The increase is to complete engineering work that will be owned by the Town of Gander.

Council Communication and Press Updates

Council was advised that the Mayor will be conducting a live conference with Rogers Communication today. The Mayor encouraged the residents to follow directives of Health Officials regarding containment and isolation efforts.

The Mayor also advised that the modification of the method of holding public meetings is being evaluated. Council will continue to conduct its business in a method that is transparent and accessible to the public. This will require modifications and the use of technology to ensure that appropriate social distancing is maintained.

Motion #20-075

Adjournment

There being no further business, it was moved by Deputy Mayor Pollett and seconded by Councillor Woodford that the meeting be adjourned.

In Favour: 7 Opposing: 0

Decision: Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 1:53 p.m.

P. Farwell, Mayor

B. Hefford, Town Clerk