Province of Québec

Municipality of L’Isle-aux-Allumettes

Regular meeting of the Municipal Council of L’Isle-aux-Allumettes held on Tuesday, September 3rd, 2024, at 7:00 P.M. at the Municipal Office.

The meeting is open to the public and present are his Worship Mayor Corey Spence and Councillors Robert Chafe, Brian Adam, Nancy McGuire, Mariette Sallafranque, and Ivan Schryer.

Alicia Jones, Director General, is in attendance.

Councillor Patrick Fleming is absent.

* + 1. **Opening of meeting**

Mayor Spence welcomes everyone and declares the meeting to be open at 7:00 pm.

1. **Roll call**

Councillor Patrick Fleming is absent.

1. **Recording of the sitting**

The current meeting is being audio recorded for administrative purposes.

**4. Adoption of agenda**

126-24/09 Moved by Councillor Adam, seconded by Councillor Sallafranque, to adopt the agenda as amended.

Adopted

**5. Adoption of minutes**

127-24/09 Moved by Councillor Sallafranque, seconded by Councillor Schryer, to approve the minutes from the last regular Council meeting of August 6th, 2024, as presented.

Adopted

**6. Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

None.

**7. Statement of the Mayor**

The Mayor makes his Statement.

**8. Questions from the public**

 *- Barbara Hynes:*

*- asking Council for permission to use St-Joseph Hall this winter, for the pickleball league;*

The Mayor responds that Council will consider the request at their next Committee.

*- Noella Chaput-McGuire:*

*- gives Council an update regarding the clean-up of the property;*

The Mayor asks for an update on the civil legal case. Mrs Chaput-McGuire answers that there has been no update from their lawyer.

 **9. Correspondence**

* *A letter from Denis and Louise Vaillancourt is received and read; requesting the permanent closure of Sikorski Road.*

Deferred to committee for future discussion.

**10. Committee Reports**

 **Land-use, Urbanism & By-Laws**

Councillor McGuire, Chair of Land-use, Urbanism and By-Laws committee, gives a verbal report.

128-24/09 *Speed limit – Sikorski Rd*

Moved by Councillor McGuire, seconded by Councillor Adam, to approve the reduction of the speed limit on the lower portion (south) of the Sikorski Road to 10km/h and to have the appropriate signage installed.

Adopted

 **Public Works**

Councillor Schryer, Chair of the Public Works committee, gives a verbal report.

129-24/09 *Notice of motion - Borrowing by-law*

Notice of motion is given by Councillor Schryer and a draft By-law is given for the necessary revisions to Borrowing By-law 2024-004 decreeing the carrying out of municipal work on waterworks/sewers and authorizing a loan.

130-24/09 *Temporary Loan - TECQ*

Moved by Councillor Schryer, seconded by Councillor Sallafranque, that the Municipality apply for new temporary financing, negotiated with the Caisse Desjardins de Rivières du Pontiac, for a total amount of $800,947 which corresponds to the necessary costs for work eligible under the TECQ 2024-2028 program to allow liquidity during the program and which will be reimbursed at the time of the latter's rendering of accounts and to authorize the Director General and the Mayor to sign all necessary documentation.

Adopted

 **Community, Culture & Recreation**

Councillor Chafe, Chair of the Community, Culture & Recreation committee, gives a verbal report.

131-24/09 *Tax exemption request for Chapeau RA*

WHEREAS the Chapeau Recreation Association, on July 8th, 2024, submitted a request for a tax exemption for the property located at 78, chemin de Pembroke in L'Isle-aux-Allumettes, in accordance with the procedures established by the Commission municipale du Québec;

WHEREAS the Municipality of L'Isle-aux-Allumettes has received a copy of this request for consultation and has 90 days to make its opinion known to the Commission;

WHEREAS the Chapeau RA is a non-profit organization whose activities are aimed at providing recreational services and promoting the well-being of the community;

IT IS THEREFORE PROPOSED by Councillor Chafe, seconded by Councillor Adam and resolved that the Municipal Council of L'Isle-aux-Allumettes support the request of the Association Récréative de Chapeau for a tax exemption for the property located at 78, chemin de Pembroke.

AND THAT the Municipality forward its decision to the Commission municipale du Québec as soon as possible, with a presence at the hearing, if necessary, in accordance with the requirements of the application.

Adopted

**Revitalization**

Councillor Sallafranque, Chair of the Revitalization committee, gives a verbal report.

132-24/09 *New Horizons Grant*

Moved by Councillor Sallafranque, seconded by Councillor Chafe, to approve the request for funding for ongoing activities at Centennial Park, through the federal New Horizons Grant for Seniors, and to authorize the Director General to sign and send the application.

Adopted

 **Public Security**

Councillor Fleming, Chair of the Public Security committee, being absent; the Mayor gives a verbal report.

133-24/09 *Complaint – Canada Post Hours*

WHEREAS Canada Post services are essential for residents, especially for accessing their mail and packages in a timely manner;

WHEREAS the local Canada Post office (Chapeau) was previously open until 8:00 PM on weeknights, which allowed greater flexibility for residents to access their mailboxes after regular working hours;

WHEREAS the current hours of the post office have been reduced, now closing before 5:00 PM, significantly limiting access for residents who are unable to visit during the workday;

WHEREAS there have never been any security complaints or incidents related to the building being accessible outside of regular working hours, with decades of safe, uninterrupted access during previous extended evening hours;

WHEREAS many residents are unable to access their mailboxes during regular working hours due to their personal work schedules, leading to delays in receiving important correspondence;

WHEREAS residents depend on timely receipt of essential documents, including government notices, medical information, and financial documents that may impact their well-being and livelihoods;

WHEREAS flexible hours would better accommodate individuals with various responsibilities, such as childcare, multiple jobs, remote job location, who cannot easily visit the post office during regular hours;

WHEREAS supporting extended hours for mailbox access would improve overall satisfaction with Canada Post services in the community;

WHEREAS opening the post office outside regular working hours could alleviate congestion during peak hours and reduce pressure on staff during regular business hours;

WHEREAS the Municipality recognizes the importance of timely postal access for supporting local businesses that rely on mail services for their operations;

THEREFORE, it is proposed by Councillor Adam, seconded by Councillor Sallafranque, that this Municipality make a formal request to Canada Post to have the local Chapeau Office re-opened for mailbox access outside of normal working hours and that the municipal Director General enter into discussions with Canada Post officials to improve any other issues, as discussed.

Adopted

 **Administration**

Councillor Adam, Chair of the Administration committee, gives a verbal report.

 **11. Review of monthly payables**

The list of accounts payables for the month of August is reviewed.

**12. Questions from the public**

*- Noella Chaput-McGuire:*

*- questions who would pay for the purchase and installation of new speed signage*

The Mayor responds that the taxpayers are responsible for these regular operational expenses.

 **13. Varia**

134-24/09 *Samonix project*

Whereas the MRC Pontiac's devitalization index remains among the highest in Québec;

Whereas many forest product processors (Paper mill, sawmills, and pellet mill) are now closed and dismantled;

Whereas our Municipality and our MRC economy requires job-creating projects, as proposed by Samonix;

Whereas the establishment of the Samonix farm will create more than 80 direct jobs;

Whereas the implementation of the Samonix project will develop a circular economy;

Whereas the Samonix project meets all zoning and urban planning implementation criterias and obtained from the host municipality the official certificate of conformity;

Whereas the implementation of the Samonix project does not jeopardize any other projects within the territory;

Whereas the Samonix Project is categorized by provincial government stakeholders as a "Major Project" for Quebec and that it will reintroduce an economic alternative following the near-total withdrawal of the forestry industry from the traditional mono-industrial economy of Pontiac;

Whereas for its realization, the Samonix project requires a 12MW block of energy;

Whereas Samonix has submitted a formal energy block request on March 29th, 2024;

Whereas this energy demand is much lower than what was consumed by wood processors when the forestry industry was operating normally;

Whereas once completed, the total investment for the realization of the project amounts to $300 million.

It is proposed by Councillor McGuire and seconded by Councillor Sallafranque that the Municipality of L’Isle-aux-Allumettes officially grants it’s support towards the implementation of the Samonix Atlantic Salmon farm within the MRC Pontiac. It is also resolved that our Municipality requests, through this resolution, that Hydro-Québec and the MEIE grant the 12 MW energy block to Samonix to ensure its implementation and thereby allow the Pontiac to benefit from a new economic engine for its region.

Adopted

135-24/09 *Water testing prices – Residential water*

Moved by Councillor Adam, seconded by Councillor Sallafranque, to amend the pricing of local residential water testing to $65 for property owners within the territory and $80 for those located in neighboring municipalities, in order to cover the increased cost of laboratory processing, shipping and administrative expenses.

Adopted

 **14. In camera session**

136-24/09 Moved by Councillor Adam, seconded by Councillor Chafe, to proceed with the discussions, in-camera, at 7:35pm.

Adopted

137-24/09 Moved by Councillor Adam, seconded by Councillor Sallafranque, to return to the meeting in progress, at 7:55pm.

Adopted

138-24/09 *Invoice for waste tipping fees*

Moved by Councillor Adam, seconded by Councillor Sallafranque, to forgo the invoicing for the transfer site tipping fees, for a certain ratepayer, as presented by the Director General.

 FOR: AGAINST:

 Brian Adam Robert Chafe

 Mariette Sallafranque

 Nancy McGuire

 Ivan Schryer

Adopted on division

**15. Date of next meeting**

The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 1st, 2024 at 7:00p.m. at the Municipal office.

**16. Closing of meeting**

139-24/09 Moved by Councillor Chafe and seconded by Councillor Sallafranque that the meeting be adjourned at 8:00pm.

Adopted

 Director General / Clerk-treasurer Mayor

I, *Corey Spence, Mayor*, certify that the signing of these minutes is equivalent to the signature by me of all the resolutions it contains, according to section 142 (2) of the Municipal Code.

*La version française est la version officielle - The French version is the official version*