

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

A work session was held beginning at 3:30 p.m. and the regular meeting of the Coleraine City Council began at 4:00 p.m., Monday, December 13th, 2021, in the Council Chambers of Coleraine City Hall.

WORK SESSION

3:30 p.m.

Council used the work session to review their materials and discuss various items as they related to the 2022 budget and proposed levy.

REGULAR MEETING

4:00 p.m.

The regular meeting was called to order by Mayor Nielsen at 4:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. A roll call was done by Clerk Anderson. Members present: Councilpersons Sobotzak, T. Troumbly, and Mayor Nielsen. Councilpersons Pollard and Sertich were absent with notice. It was also noted that both will be in attendance at 6:00p.m. for the Truth in Taxation portion of the meeting.

Moved by Mayor Nielsen, supported by Councilperson Sobotzak, **to approve the consent agenda which included Council meeting minutes of 11.22.21, special meeting minutes of 11.29.21, correspondence, and claims of \$20,134.57.** Roll Call: Ayes: Mayor Nielsen, Councilpersons Sobotzak, and T. Troumbly. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Moved by Mayor Nielsen with the support of Councilperson T. Troumbly **to approve the meeting agenda as presented.** Ayes: all. Nays: none. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments.

DEPARTMENT HEADS

Police:

Interim Police Chief Hussman reported that he has been going to the Bovey City Council meetings. He is working on dissolving both Police Departments and forming the Trout Lake Police Department. He informed that he will be facilitating the combining. He stated that he is also checking on selling the extra squad to Bovey; they would then fix it. Hussman stated that Bovey is borrowing the squad all the time. When asked who pays the insurance, he stated that Coleraine currently does. Finally, there was some discussion on residents parking cars in their yards and the status of the Midway trailer park.

Public Works (Street):

Public Works Supervisor Bertram provided a written report that he briefly went over. He briefly touched on issues with the plow truck, major problems at the water treatment plant that need to be addressed, and the problems with snowmobiles in the park and on sidewalks.

ATTORNEY:

Attorney Dimich was not present as he was still in court.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution No. 2021-12.13-ARPA additional funds – Clerk Anderson informed that the City received an additional distribution of funds that were not applied for by other entities. The redistribution will total \$6,833.40; \$3416.70 has already been received with the second half coming approximately July 2022 with the other distribution. The same federal rules apply for the expenditure of funds. **Motion** by Mayor Nielsen supported by Councilperson Sobtzak **to approve the resolution and accept the additional redistribution.** Roll Call: Ayes: Mayor Nielsen, Councilpersons Sobtzak and T. Troumbly. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Hoopman Road plowing agreement – Louis Hoopman proposed to plow a portion of Hoopman Road for the 2021-2022 plowing season for a flat \$400.00. The County no longer includes this small section in their plowing contract with the city. **Motion** by Councilperson Sobtzak with the support of Mayor Nielsen **to approve the plowing agreement.** Roll Call: Ayes: Councilperson Sobtzak, Mayor Nielsen, and Councilperson T. Troumbly. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Resolution establishing polling place for 2022 – Clerk Anderson informed this is a standard resolution establishing the Nyberg Community Center as the polling place for Coleraine (this includes both the urban and rural areas) that must be done each year prior to any election. **Motion** by Mayor Nielsen, supported by Councilperson T. Troumbly **to approve the resolution.** Roll Call: Ayes: Mayor Nielsen, Councilpersons T. Troumbly, and Sobtzak. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Final pay App for City Hall Masonry & Roof Repairs project-Lenci – Clerk Anderson informed the punch list has been completed, an IC134 was previously submitted, and that this is the contingency that can now be released. **Motion** by Councilperson Sobtzak with the support of Mayor Nielsen **to approve the final pay application for \$9,101.10.** Roll Call: Ayes: Councilperson Sobtzak, Mayor Nielsen, and Councilperson T. Troumbly. Nays: none. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Congdon Street—Since a meeting is scheduled on Monday, December 20th at noon to in part discuss the capital improvement plan, this was tabled.

COUNCIL CONCERNS:

Pollard: Absent
T. Troumbly: None
Sobtzak: None
Sertich: Absent
Nielsen: None

Being no further business to be discussed at this time the meeting was recessed at 4:40 p.m. until 6:00p.m. when the Truth in Taxation portion of the meeting will be held.

Mayor Nielsen **resumed the council meeting at 6:00 p.m. for the Truth in Taxation** portion of the meeting. A roll call was again done. Members present: Councilpersons Pollard, Sobtzak, T. Troumbly, Sertich, and Mayor Nielsen.

There were a handful of residents in attendance mostly from the rural district. Concern was expressed due to the increase in property taxes that the residents are receiving. The main question was how long they would expect to see their taxes rise. There was much discussion between Council and residents in attendance.


Council explained that they have reviewed the expenditure budget line by line and made cuts where they could without cutting services. The myriad of costs were explained as well as explaining that that the budget does not include any costs for public utilities (water and sewer) that urban residents pay for separately each month.

The rural benefit ratio was explained and it was indicated that the rural benefit ratio for 2022 increased to 55% and that it would increase 10% per year until it reached 75% so two more years would be expected. It was explained that this is not an increase in dollars that the city receives, but a redistribution of property taxes to more accurately distribute city costs to residents.

Further, it was explained that the distribution has allowed the city to budget for specific amounts and projects within the rural district that otherwise could not be accomplished. It was stated that \$115,000 has been set aside for Brock Lane; work that could not be completed in 2021 due to time restraints. For 2022, \$170,000 has specifically been budgeted in the rural district for normal costs and other road repairs yet to be determined.

Being no further discussion, Mayor Nielsen **motioned to approve a 4% increase in the levy bringing the total collected to \$864,906 (\$765,984 for the general fund -- \$98,922 for the public library) in 2022 and to approve the 2022 budget as presented with \$1,706,277 in expenses.** The motion was seconded by Councilperson T. Troumbly. Roll Call: Ayes: Mayor Nielsen, Councilpersons T. Troumbly, Sertich, Sobtzak, and Pollard.

There being no further business, a **motion to adjourn at 6:49 p.m.** was made by Mayor Nielsen with support from Councilperson Sertich. Ayes: all. Nays: none. Motion carried; meeting adjourned.


Thomas Nielsen, Mayor


Briana Anderson, Clerk-Treasurer