

Pontiac Council - Elvis has left the building

Mo Laidlaw

The regular monthly meeting of Pontiac municipal council was held on 9 February 2021 at 7:30 pm, by teleconference. About 10 members of the public joined the council and director general Pierre Said.

Public input

Jessica Trudeau returned to the municipality after living elsewhere and is “disappointed by the decline in appearance” as she’d like to make the municipality home. She asked if the nuisance bylaw of 2013, amended in 2015 is still in effect. Mayor Joanne Labadie explained that the bylaw is not easy to enforce. There are various reasons that people cannot maintain properties, including age, money and mental health. Letters are sent, and some have no response. The only recourse is to the courts which takes years and legal fees. A strict legal process has to be followed. The municipal court for the MRC is in Chelsea. Courts have been closed or running at reduced capacity during the pandemic. However, “We are trying to move forward, and encourage people to beautify their properties. Disasters each year don’t help.”

Andrea Goffart asked about the Elvis sign. “Why was it removed from the Agriculture building (in Quyon)?” Labadie replied that it was falling apart, the bolts that attached it to the building had rusted. It was hoped to preserve it, but when it was taken down it was clear it was damaged beyond repair. It originally came from the Ottawa Ex. The Agriculture building was acquired by the municipality from Quyon Ensemble who were consulted on the sign.

Pierre Pratte asked about the ch Tremblay boat launch project. Public works have requested plans and sketches so that proposals can be sought and council can make a decision on a contractor, for work to start as soon as possible this year.

A resident from Quyon asked about rats at the mill on ch Egan. An exterminator experienced with grain mills has been involved and there is no large infestation, however there is still grain that needs to be cleaned up according to Public works. The mill will be put on the market in the spring. This resident also asked about burnt out street lights on ch Pontiac, the dark road being a hazard for pedestrians. There is more traffic here since the Bronson-Bryant washout. Labadie said that all street lights in the municipality will be replaced with LED lights starting in April, with burnt-out lights the top priority. The LED lights will last longer and cost less to operate.

Recognition of the Association of residents of Plage Pierre-Tremblay.

Emilie Lynes asked if there was any news on approving this road association, she is the secretary. Municipal Affairs (MAMH) have not yet responded. Later in the meeting a resolution was adopted to grant the association “temporary” funds, conditional on approval by MAMH. This is to help pay for snow ploughing until the private/tolerance road situation is sorted out with MAMH.

The umbrella borrowing bylaw (02-21) for \$2 million for road works, over 20 years was passed by a majority, with councillor Draper-Maxsom voting against.

Councillors Draper-Maxsom and McDonald voted against a resolution to adhere to the “declaration of commitment on democracy and respect.” This is intended to reduce aggressive and intimidating behaviour to elected officials and municipal workers. Labadie said “Let’s encourage political engagement, not discourage it. This is to support the Union of Québec municipalities’ resolution of last December.” Councillor Draper-Maxsom replied, “This is nice, but

what is UMQ going to do? It has no authority. We already have police. Better handling of municipal affairs would protect democracy.”

Electing the MRC des Collines warden

Until now the warden has been elected by the MRC mayors from their number. (The present warden is the mayor of Chelsea, Caryl Green). The council of mayors passed a bylaw to elect the next warden (in 2021) by universal suffrage (by all the electors of the MRC). A resolution was passed to deal with all the details of this election, with councillor Draper-Maxsom voting against because it included many possible new ways of voting.

Planning

The municipality requests the CPTAQ to exclude parts of five lots from the agricultural zone. These are commercial and residential lots on the south side of route 148 just west of ch du Village in Luskville, at the west end of the “four-lane” with a total of 1.04 ha in the agricultural zone. Every time there is a request for a building permit or change of usage a request to the CPTAQ has to be made, which takes time and complicates the application of municipal bylaws.

Council approves the sale of a small municipal lot (1,824 m²) on the north side of Cedarvale near Terry Fox, to the owners of a neighbouring lot, as it was the only offer received, for \$18,010 plus taxes and notary and other fees. The combined lots will be about 0.7 acre.

The owners of the property at 130 ch Bélisle that suffered major damage during spring 2019 floods, have accepted Québec’s offer of financial help and cede the property (when cleaned up) to the municipality for \$1.

Expenses approved:

Expenses of \$18,485 for February.

\$3,583 to the Municipal Housing Office, being 10% of its deficit.

Mo’s reports are archived at: www.heritagepontiac.ca/Municipality

The municipal website is www.municipalitepontiac.com