

TOWN OF HARBOUR GRACE

Minutes of a special public meeting of the Town of Harbour Grace Council, held in the Town Hall & via Zoom.
December 18, 2023, at 7:00 pm.

<i>Members Present</i>	Mayor	Don Coombs
	Deputy Mayor	Keith Skinner
	Councillors	Brendan Chafe
		Gordon Stone
		Randy Wrice
<i>Staff Present</i>		Lee Rogers
		Terry Barnes
	Town Clerk/Manager	Amy Dwyer
	Admin. Assistant	Sherrie Best
	Economic Development Officer	Matthew McCarthy
	Mayor Coombs called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.	

Mayor Coombs advised that this Special Meeting of Council is being held to present the 2024 Budget and turned the meeting over to the chair of the budget committee, Councillor Gordon Stone to present the Town of Harbour Grace Budget for 2024.

ADOPTION OF BUDGET 2024

Councillor Stone remarked that this was not an easy budget. Input was gathered from all departments on finding ways to decrease costs and still provide a realistic budget with no mil rate increases for our residents. Councillor Stone said the committee had to prioritize the Capital Works Projects, look at each department's needs, and into the operation of the Danny Cleary Harbour Grace Community Center as a viable entity. Councillor Stone advised that this was a team effort to move the Town forward and thanked the town manager, Ms. Amy Dwyer and staff for their help and expertise in preparing these budget notes and proceeded to present the 2024 budget for the Town of Harbour Grace.

Motioned to adopt Budget 2024 for the Town of Harbour Grace as presented.

MOTION #23 – 360

CLR. STONE/DM SKINNER.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mayor Coombs advised that effective December 18, 2023, he is appointing an advisory committee to council that would oversee the problems associated with the DCHGCC and bring back recommendations to Council. This committee will be made up of three council members, Councillor Rogers, Councillor Chafe, and Councillor Barnes.

Motioned for Council to borrow the sum of \$350,000.00 at the rate of prime plus one half percent from the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce for funding to be used as the Town's operating Line of Credit.

MOTION #23 – 361

CLR. STONE/CLR. CHAFE.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Motioned for Council to borrow the sum of \$10,000.00 from the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce for funds to be used for the Town of Harbour Grace Visa Card.

MOTION #23 – 362

CLR. STONE/CLR. BARNES

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADOPTION OF TAX STRUCTURE 2024

NOTICE
TOWN OF HARBOUR GRACE
2024 TAX STRUCTURE

The following taxes and rates were adopted at a meeting of Council held on December 18, 2023, effective from January 1, 2024.

PROPERTY TAX

Residential Property Tax	7.75	mils	(\$350.00 Minimum)
Commercial Property Tax	8.00	mils	(\$400.00 Minimum)
Vacant Land	7.75	mils	(\$50.00 Minimum)

BUSINESS TAX

	\$200.00 Minimum Tax		
Banks, Financial Institutions	100	mils	
Oil Companies	100	mils	
Lawyers & Funeral Homes	22	mils	
Manufacturing Firms	12	mils	
All Other Types of Businesses including B&Bs, Airbnbs	10	mils	
Doctors, & Dentists	0	mils	
Hotels – 25 rooms and over	5	mils	
Hotels – 50+ rooms	2.5	mils	
Utility & Cable Companies	2.5%	of gross revenue	
Other Businesses - No Fixed Place of Business	1%	of gross revenue	
Recreational Facilities	4	mils	
Direct Sellers	\$250.00		

WATER & SEWER

Domestic	\$ 400.00		
(Water only \$260.00/Sewer only \$140.00)			
Vacant Land W/S Rate	\$ 50.00		
Recreation Facilities	\$ 400.00		
Apartment Buildings	\$ 400.00 per unit		
Schools	\$ 400.00 plus 7 mils		
Banks & Financial Institutions	\$ 400.00 plus 10 mils		
Federal/Provincial bldgs, Oil Companies, Manufacturing Firms, Medical Offices, & Dental Offices	\$ 400.00 plus 10 mils		
Marine Manufacturing, Cold Storage	\$ 400.00 plus 12 mils		
Garages, Gas Bars, Motels & Hotels, Laundromats, Restaurants, Clubs, Take Outs, Salons	\$ 400.00 plus 8 mils.		
Other Commercial Properties - using water	\$ 400.00 plus 8 mils.		
Other Commercial Properties - not using water	4 mils		
Oil Companies - not using water	50 mils.		
Fish Companies on Harbour Authority Wharf	\$500/user/year		

SCHEDULE OF FEES

Residential Building Permit & Extensions	\$	0.25 per sq. ft.
Accessory Buildings (Sheds, Garages, Etc.)	\$	0.25 sq. ft or min. of \$50.00
Residential Occupancy Permit	\$	25.00
Commercial Building Permit-	\$	0.25 per sq. ft.
Commercial Occupancy Permit	\$	50.00
General Repair & Maintenance Permit (Residential)	\$	25.00
General Repair & Maintenance Permit (Commercial)	\$	50.00
Fence (Repair/Installation) Permit	\$	20.00

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Permit for Installation of Utility Poles/anchors	\$ 150.00
Roadside Vendor Permits (Annually)	\$ 200.00
Quarry Permit	\$ 1,500.00
Water Reconnecting Fee (Due to water shut-off for Non-payment of taxes)	\$ 100.00
Car Wreck Removal	at Cost
Demolition Deposit (Refundable \$75.00)	\$ 100.00
Water On/Off	\$ 25.00
After Hours call outs	\$ 50.00
Tax Certificate	\$ 100.00
Compliance Letter	\$ 100.00
NSF Cheque	\$ 100.00

NOTE: A 4% discount will be applied to all 2024 taxes if paid in full by February 28, 2024, provided all previous taxes have been paid.

DUE DATE FOR 2024 taxes is June 30, 2024. Simple interest will be charged at the rate of 12.0% per annum on all past due taxes.
Signed: Amy Dwyer, Town Clerk/Manager

After the presentation of the 2024 Tax Structure, Council discussed the business tax rates for doctors and dentists, noting that only the business tax would be 0 mils not the associated water and sewer fees.

Motioned to accept the Town of Harbour Grace Tax Structure for 2024 as presented with discussion.

MOTION #23 – 363

CLR. STONE/CLR. WRICE

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Next scheduled regular council meeting is 7:00 pm on January 8, 2024, at 7:00 pm.

Adjournment

Motioned to adjourn the Special Meeting of Council at 7:42 pm.

MOTION #23 – 364

CLR. BARNES/CLR. CHAFE

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Don Coombs, Mayor
sb

Amy Dwyer, Town Clerk/Manager