

**CITY OF IQALUIT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING #09
MAY 11, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – VIA VISUAL CONFERENCE**

PRESENT FROM COUNCIL

Mayor Kenny Bell
Deputy Mayor Janet Brewster
Councillor Romeyn Stevenson
Councillor Joanasie Akumalik
Councillor Sheila Flaherty
Councillor Simon Nattaq
Councillor Kyle Sheppard
Councillor Solomon Awa
Councillor John Fawcett

PRESENT FROM ADMINISTRATION

Amy Elgersma, Chief Administrative Officer
Tammy Ernst-Doiron, City Clerk
Katrina Sarmiento, Executive Assistant
Alison Drummond, Senior Director of Corporate Services

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Bell opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. with a moment of silence.

SWEARING IN

None

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Remove:

- 3. Delegations
 - a) QIA Report – Verbal

- 9. New Business
 - a) IOL Beach - Verbal

Add:

- 9. New Business
 - g) Extending the Local State of Emergency

Motion #21-140

Moved by: Councillor Stevenson
Seconded by: Councillor Sheppard

Adoption of agenda as amended.

Unanimously Carried

1. MINUTES

a) City Council Meeting #07 dated April 27, 2021

Motion #21-141

Moved by: Councillor Stevenson
Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Brewster

City Council Meeting #07 Minutes dated April 27, 2021.

Unanimously Carried

b) Emergency City Council Meeting #08 dated May 3, 2021

Motion #21-142

Moved by: Councillor Stevenson
Seconded by: Councillor Sheppard

Emergency City Council Meeting #08 Minutes dated May 3, 2021.

Unanimously Carried

Councillor Fawcett was present.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None

3. DELEGATIONS

a) QIA Report – Verbal

This item was removed from the agenda.

4. **AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS**

None

5. **STATEMENTS**

None

6. **DEFERRED BUSINESS AND TABLED ITEMS**

a) **Mayor's Housing Task Force Update - Tabled**

This item has been tabled.

7. **BY-LAWS**

a) **First Reading of By-law(s)**

None

b) **Second Reading of By-laws(s)**

None

c) **Third and Final Reading of By-laws(s)**

None

8. **OLD BUSINESS**

None

9. **NEW BUSINESS**

a) **IOL Beach - Verbal**

This item was removed from the agenda.

b) **Internet Council Meetings – COVID-19 - Verbal**

Councillor Flaherty advised that she does not have proper home internet. Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, she has had numerous virtual meetings on different platforms, and during the meetings, the video freezes and the audio drops out. Councillor Flaherty noted that due to the lack of proper home internet, she is unable to download agenda packages and therefore arranges to pick up a hard copy.

Councillor Flaherty noted that for a recent meeting, arrangements were made with staff for contactless delivery and pick up of a modem to use during the meeting. She is suggesting that this process continue to be used during the lockdown, however, she prefers to use a Zoom call-in number, which she can use on her cell phone.

Councillor Stevenson clarified that Zoom meetings do not allow for simultaneous interpretation.

Mayor Bell explained that a Zoom call-in meeting would only enable the ability to hear the floor and any English interpretation of Inuktitut comments or questions would not be heard.

Councillor Stevenson suggested that in light of not being able to hear interpretation, it would be reasonable to use a modem during the COVID-19 lockdown. He suggested that Councillor Flaherty could pick up the modem and hard copy material at the same time and then return the modem after the meeting.

Councillor Flaherty expressed her thanks for the clarification regarding the use of a Zoom call-in number and not having the ability to hear English interpretation. She requested the ability to pick up a modem prior to City meetings and return the modem after each meeting during the COVID-19 lockdown period.

Councillor Akumalik joined the meeting during this discussion.

Mayor Bell advised that the City does not have a modem that Councillor Flaherty can use and staff will have to look into the availability of obtaining a modem.

Councillor Sheppard commented that in the essence of accessibility, it is important to come to a solution. He asked if Administration had any recommendations on a viable solution that could be formalized.

Amy Elgersma, Chief Administrative Officer, presented the following options:

- Can provide a reasonable expense allowance for the performance of Council duties.
 - Provide all councillors with an internet allowance that would assist in getting home internet.
 - An internet allowance is currently being provided to City staff at \$5 per day when they work from home.
- To obtain another subscription for a modem and have available for use. She explained that the modem that was provided for the one-time use is used for another function that is needed periodically for something else.

Ms. Elgersma noted that the City had two mobile hubs which were costly when being used extensively, therefore, the most cost efficient method is a modem at a cost of \$80 per month.

Councillor Stevenson suggested that it would be more cost effective to purchase a modem to have for a spare and Councillor Flaherty could use it for meetings during the COVID-19 lockdown. He noted that Councillor Flaherty could pick up the modem prior to each meeting and then return it after each meeting.

Councillor Awa joined the meeting during this discussion.

Motion #21-143

Moved by: Councillor Sheppard

Seconded by: Councillor Fawcett

Council directs staff to acquire additional means of internet access in an affordable manner for provision of internet access for councillors when required during COVID-19.

**For – Fawcett, Sheppard, Stevenson, Flaherty, Awa,
Against – Brewster, Akumalik, Nattaq
Carried**

Mayor Bell noted that staff is dropping off and delivering items and there is not enough manpower to continue doing this. Mayor Bell asked for Council's direction regarding the use, pick up and delivery of the modem.

Councillor Fawcett felt that it should be the councillor's responsibility to pick up and drop off the modem, which is provided for all City meetings, in a contactless method.

Deputy Mayor Brewster commented that during any virtual meetings, she has used hotspots. She commented that the stipend councillors receive is meant to support participation in all of the City's meetings.

Councillor Stevenson felt that the window for pick up should be 24 hours prior to a meeting, to allow sufficient time to download documents and review prior to a meeting, if the councillor so chooses.

Councillor Stevenson commented that for any councillor who has undue hardship due to the number of virtual meetings and required bandwidth, they should have access to internet through the City. He felt that was reasonable in light of the fact of being asked to do work outside of normal practice due to the COVID-19 pandemic and shutdowns.

Councillor Awa advised that he no longer has internet access at work to join meetings, so he is using his cell phone in his office to join the meeting. He commented that without available internet access at work, he will now be joining meetings at home and will require the same device as requested by Councillor Flaherty.

Councillor Nattaq explained that when he is away, he uses his cell phone to join meetings. He asked if it is possible to receive the agenda package electronically instead

of a hard copy. Councillor Nattaq commented that it is not known how long the COVID-19 lockdown will be in effect and the City has to be financially astute.

Mayor Bell explained that agenda packages are sent electronically two days prior to a meeting. He noted that when meeting in the Council Chambers, councillors have Surface Pros that contain the electronic agenda packages.

c) Request for Decision – COVID Response Funding – Remaining Funds Allocation

Alison Drummond, Senior Director of Corporate Services, presented a Request for Decision to allocate the remaining COVID-19 Response Funding that was received last year. She explained that \$805,000 was previously allocated and there is \$503,196 remaining to be allocated before the end of June 2021.

Ms. Drummond advised that the four societies were contacted and asked what level of support they required at this time. The following amendments to the current Contribution Agreements are being recommended:

- Uquutaq Society - allocate an additional \$155,000 to assist with transitional housing and emergency shelter
- Tukisigiarvik – allocate an additional \$65,000 to support hygiene and vulnerable population food programs
- Qajuqturvik Food Centre – allocate an additional \$65,000 to support food service and delivery program
- YWCA Agvvik – allocate an additional \$55,000 to support operations and offset COVID-19 related costs

Ms. Drummond noted that the additional allocations total \$340,000. The remaining \$163,196 can be allocated before June 30, 2021.

Motion #21-144

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Brewster

Seconded by: Councillor Flaherty

Council approves the distribution of \$340,000 COVID-19 Response Funding to the four Reaching Home recipients as presented.

Unanimously Carried

Deputy Mayor Brewster noted that in the past couple of weeks, there are staffing issues at the Uquutaq Society and asked if they are able to expend the additional \$155,000 being allocated.

Ms. Drummond advised that the Uquutaq Society originally requested an additional \$125,000 and later asked if the amount could be raised to \$155,000, which included a presentation that allocates how the funds will be used. Ms. Drummond noted that the

funds must be distributed prior to June 30 and the societies have until December 31 to use the funds.

d) Request for Decision – Fire Emergency Generator – Carry-over Project

Amy Elgersma, Chief Administrative Officer, explained that the City currently has an emergency generator to be used at the fire hall, dispatch and Arnaitok offices. She noted that the project has been ongoing for some time and is nearly complete. There were several electrical revisions required in order to connect the generator to the electrical system in the building and there are two remaining items required to ensure that the generator is fully functional.

Ms. Elgersma pointed out that it was anticipated that the project would be completed by the end of 2020, but all of the work was not completed due to the availability of trades involved. Some of the work is a carry-over and was not included in the 2021 budget. It is estimated that \$69,000 is required to complete the project this summer.

Motion #21-145

Moved by: Councillor Awa

Seconded by: Councillor Sheppard

Council approves to complete the remaining work on the fire emergency generator in 2021 as described to ensure that the emergency generator can supply power to the fire hall, dispatch and City support services, in the event of a power disruption or an extended power failure emergency to allow for continued operation.

Unanimously Carried

e) Request for Decision – 2021 COVID-19 Capital Project Impacts

Amy Elgersma, Chief Administrative Officer, advised that there are a number of projects in the 2021 Capital Spending Plan that are considered critical. Due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, staff reviewed the projects to determine any associated risks if projects were deferred or cancelled, and a number of critical projects were identified.

Ms. Elgersma noted that there are also impacts to building construction as a result of COVID-19, which has increased the risk of proceeding with a number of projects this year. There are a number of projects identified as a financial risk to the City, those being the waste transfer station building, majority of the fire hall renovations and the fire training ground structures. Ms. Elgersma advised that staff are recommending deferring the building construction and renovation projects until next year due to the high cost in building materials and availability of construction material.

Ms. Elgersma advised that staff have confirmed with the Government of Nunavut that the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program Funding for the waste transfer station portion of the Solid Waste Project can be extended.

Motion #21-146

Moved by: Councillor Sheppard

Seconded by: Councillor Stevenson

Council approves the critical project list and agrees to defer building construction projects, including the fire hall renovation, waste transfer station and fire training ground retro-fit.

Unanimously Carried

f) Request for Decision – AV211 – AV205 Sewer Upgrade Project Options

Amy Elgersma, Chief Administrative Officer, explained that the AV211 – AV205 Sewer Upgrade Project is primarily a sewer upgrade project, as well as a water line upgrade with some drainage work. The Phase 2 sewer upgrades will upgrade lines from the end of the runway near the three corners and would go to the four corners.

Ms. Elgersma advised that a tender was called for the project and all tenders were significantly over budget. The lowest bid is approximately \$2.8 million (includes \$300,000 contingency) over budget. The original budget for the entire project is \$4.4 million, which includes design completion and project management fees, leaving \$3.7 million available for construction, not including contingency.

Ms. Elgersma explained that the bids were reviewed to determine why the tender amounts were so high compared to the budget amount, and it was found that the high cost was attributed to COVID-19 costs, risk factors and supply and demand issues related to the availability of the HDPE pipe required for the project.

Ms. Elgersma noted that a review of the Capital Plan was conducted and staff are not recommending cancelling any other projects to fund the additional costs. The following are three options:

- Option 1 - Defer the project to next year and issue a tender early in the year
 - The risk means that the sewer capacity will maintain the status quo and require any new building construction to install holding tanks that require pump-outs or time release to the city's sewer system.
 - Buildings that currently have holding tanks would have to continue using them.
 - It is anticipated that some of the COVID-19 risks and high costs will be reduced next year.
- Option 2 - Decrease the scope by 25 to 50 percent
 - Construction costs would be reduced this year, but there will be additional overall costs added relating to re-design, tender administration and re-mobilization.
 - Price per section would be greater and not considered good value for the City.

- Option 3 - Proceed with the work and award the contract
 - Other critical water and sewer projects would not proceed next year and the long-term water supply and Apex pumping project would be at risk.
 - There is a financial risk of going into a deficit position if this option is chosen.

Ms. Elgersma advised that staff are recommending Option 1 - to defer the project and re-tender in 2022.

Motion #21-147

Moved by: Councillor Sheppard
Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Brewster

Council defers AV211 – AV205 Sewer Upgrade Project and will re-tender the project in 2022.

Unanimously Carried

g) Extending the Local State of Emergency

Motion #21-148

Moved by: Councillor Sheppard
Seconded by: Councillor Awa

Council extends the State of Local Emergency effective 12 a.m. Wednesday, May 12, 2021 due to the local community transmission of COVID-19. All existing terms and conditions remain in effect.

Unanimously Carried

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

11. CORRESPONDENCE

None

12. IN CAMERA SESSION

() as per Section 22 (2) (a) CTV Act and By-law 526 Section 67

13. ADJOURNMENT


Motion #21-149

Moved by: Councillor Stevenson
Seconded by: Councillor Akumalik

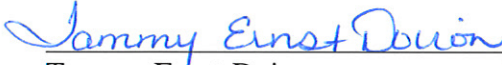
Council adjourns at 6:53 p.m.

Unanimously Carried





Kenny Bell
Mayor



Tammy Ernst-Doiron
City Clerk

Approved by City Council on the 27th day of May 2021.

