



MUNICIPALITY OF PONTIAC

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC COUNTY OF PONTIAC

MINUTES of the special meeting of the Municipal Council of Pontiac held on Friday, May 24, 2019 at 6:00 pm at Town Hall, located at 2024, Route 148, Pontiac to which were present:

Mrs. Joanne Labadie, Mayor, Mrs. Leslie-Anne Barber, Pro-Mayor and Councillors, Mrs. Nancy Draper-Maxsom, Mrs. Susan McKay, Mrs. Isabelle Patry and Mr. Thomas Howard.

Also present was Charlotte Laforest, Acting Director General.

Excused absence: Councillor Mr. Scott McDonald

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING / NOTICE OF MEETING

The meeting was convened by the Director General in accordance with the provisions of article 156 of the Quebec Municipal Code.

Mrs. Joanne Labadie, President, ascertains the quorum and opens the meeting. The session starts at 6:01 pm.

Mrs. Leslie-Anne Barber, Pro-Mayor arrives at 6:07 pm

2. FLOOR TO THE PUBLIC AND QUESTIONS

Mrs. Joanne Labadie, President, acknowledges the entries in the question register and gives the floor to the public

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting / notice of meeting;
2. Floor to the public and questions;
3. Adoption of the agenda;
4. Local emergency statement (renewal);
5. Floods – postponed payment of taxes;

19-05-3773





MUNICIPALITY OF PONTIAC

6. Approval of supplementary costs to the development project of a container and the installation of compressors at the water treatment plant in Quyon;
7. Resolution to change the place of the ordinary session in June;
8. Public question period;
9. Closing of the meeting.

IT IS MOVED BY Councillor, Mrs. Isabelle Patry and seconded by Councillor, Mrs. Leslie-Anne Barber.

AND RESOLVED to adopt the agenda as prepared.

Carried

19-05-3774

4. LOCAL EMERGENCY STATEMENT (RENEWAL)

WHEREAS the water level is above the threshold of major floods.

WHEREAS the situation remains unchanged since the last declaration of emergency.

WHEREAS it is estimated that the water level will remain high for several more days.

WHEREAS the municipal council at the regular meeting of May 19, 2019 declared a state of emergency for a period of five days by its resolution No. 19-05-3771.

WHEREAS the first paragraph of section 43 of the *Civil Protection Act* (CQLR 2.3) provides that the state of emergency declared by the municipal council may be renewed for periods of up to five days, with authorization of the Minister of Public Security.

WHEREAS the municipality has informed the Minister that it must take immediate action to protect the life, health or integrity of persons, whom it considers it can not achieve within the framework of its usual operating rules or the framework of an applicable civil security plan.

WHEREAS it is necessary to renew the declaration of state of emergency throughout the territory of the municipality for a period of five days due, among



MUNICIPALITY OF PONTIAC

other things, to a partial evacuation of the population, the impracticability of several roads in the municipal road network and the need to requisition accommodation facilities following evacuations.

THEREFORE, it is moved by Councillor, Mrs. Susan McKay and seconded by Councillor, Mrs. Isabelle Patry.

AND RESOLVED THAT the Council, subject to the authorization of the Minister, renews the state of emergency for a period of five (5) days throughout the Municipality of Pontiac due to high levels of water and the flood situation.

AND IT IS ALSO RESOLVED the Mayor, Mrs. Joanne Labadie, or, in her absence, the person who replaces her be appointed to exercise the powers provided for in paragraphs 1 to 6 of section 47 of the *Civil Protection Act*.

Carried

Councillor, Mrs. Nancy Draper-Maxsom votes against the resolution.

19-05-3775

5. FLOODS – POSTPONED PAYMENT OF TAXES

WHEREAS the municipal council wishes to offer a respite to the citizens affected by the floods of spring 2019 through a deferral of the payment of municipal taxes due on June 1, 2019 only.

WHEREAS section 91 of the Municipal Powers Act allows a municipality to grant assistance to disadvantaged individuals or people in need.

THEREFORE, it is moved by Councillor, Mrs. Leslie-Anne Barber and seconded by Councillor, Mrs. Susan McKay.

AND RESOLVED to allow the owners of the properties affected by the 2019 floods to postpone to August 1st, 2019, without interest, the payment of their municipal taxes due on June 1st, 2019.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this tax deferral be offered to property owners whose property were on the evacuated roads.



MUNICIPALITY OF PONTIAC

IT IS FINALLY RESOLVED THAT this postponement be offered only to owners whose account is not in arrears as of May 31, 2019.

Carried

19-05-3776

6. APPROVAL OF SUPPLEMENTARY COSTS TO THE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OF A CONTAINER AND THE INSTALLATION OF COMPRESSORS AT THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT IN QUYON

WHEREAS the water treatment plant is at risk of stop functioning since it relies on old compressors that show signs of malfunction.

WHEREAS the present location of the compressors is one of the major elements that generated their wear out, it is planned to temporary install them in a container.

WHEREAS the compressors used at the water plant in Quyon are property of Ottawa Compressors Services Inc., who sold us the new compressors that we plan to temporary install in a container in order to permit the expansion of the plant.

WHEREAS the Municipality mandated the VO3 Company to install the compressors in a container and develop the latter.

WHEREAS the mandate was given and accepted in good faith by both parties.

WHEREAS the mandate was awarded in a direct process via telephone exchanges and brief e mails.

WHEREAS the resolution mandating VO3 was produced at the end of July 2018.

WHEREAS VO3 received its mandate on October 5, 2018 in the amount of \$20 700.00.

WHEREAS VO3 proceeded with the development work and presented an invoice for the work on the container in the amount of \$37,118.00, excluding the costs of the implementation of the container and the installation of the compressors and their connections.

WHEREAS VO3 did not give notice that additional costs were necessary to



MUNICIPALITY OF PONTIAC

complete the work.

WHEREAS we received legal advice in regards to the obligations that a contractor should advise when he anticipates an overstatement of costs.

WHEREAS the existing business relationship, trusting relationship between the two parties was always good and that the Municipality wishes to maintain this good relationship.

WHEREAS V03 is a business composed of personnel originating from DAGUA Enterprise who designed the concept of the plant therefore, are the only ones who are well aware of this technology.

WHEREAS V03 is to our knowledge, the only enterprise that has the adequate knowledge to accompany us in the operations of the plant as well as in the maintenance and repairs of the specialized equipment.

WHEREAS without their participation, the plant since its operation started, would have suffered frequent stops and many boiling water advisories for quite a period of time.

WHEREAS the contractor has taken various measures to ensure a reasonable price by reducing his hourly rate and absorb the management costs for replenishing the supplies.

WHEREAS at a meeting held on April 17, 2019 the Public Works Committee met with the contractor of VO3 in order to identify the issues.

WHEREAS the recommendation of the Public works Committee is to accept to pay an additional sum.

THEREFORE, it is moved by Councillor, Mrs. Isabelle Patry and seconded by Councillor, Mrs. Susan McKay.

AND RESOLVED THAT Council mandates the Director of Infrastructures and the Acting Director General to pay the sum of \$16 418.00 to VO3.

Carried



MUNICIPALITY OF PONTIAC

19-05-3777

7. RESOLUTION TO CHANGE THE PLACE OF THE ORDINARY SESSION IN JUNE

WHEREAS the council will meet on June 11, 2019 at the Luskville Community Center, located at 2024 route 148 in Pontiac, to hold its regular meeting in June.

WHEREAS By-law 02-12 provides that council meetings are held every second Tuesday of the month and that they take place at 2024 route 148 in Pontiac.

WHEREAS the information sessions of the Ministry of Public Security (MSP) are scheduled to be held at the Luskville Community Center from June 10 to 12, 2019.

WHEREAS Council does not wish to postpone the regular meeting to another date or time.

WHEREAS the Council does not wish to postpone the information sessions of the MSP since the next dates proposed are too far away.

WHEREAS article 145 of the *Municipal Code of Québec* provides that the council may fix another place to hold its public meetings.

THEREFORE, it is moved by Councillor, Mrs. Leslie-Anne Barber and seconded by Councillor, Mrs. Susan McKay.

AND RESOLVED THAT the Council will exceptionally hold its regular meeting in June at the Breckenridge Community Center located at 1491 route 148 in Pontiac.

AND IT IS ALSO RESOLVED THAT subsequent public council meetings will be held in accordance with By-law 02-12 at 2024, Hwy 148, Pontiac.

Carried

8. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

Joanne Labadie, President, asks the people present if they have questions.



MUNICIPALITY OF PONTIAC

19-05-3778

9. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

IT IS MOVED BY Councillor, Susan McKay and seconded by Councillor, Nancy Draper-Maxsom.

AND RESOLVED THAT this council agrees to close the meeting at 7:50 pm.

Carried

Certified copy

Charlotte Laforest
ACTING GENERAL DIRECTOR

Joanne Labadie
MAYOR

"I, Joanne Labadie, mayor, certify that the signing of these minutes is equivalent to the signature by me of all the resolutions it contains within the meaning of section 142 (2) of the *Municipal Code of Québec*"



MUNICIPALITY OF PONTIAC

PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

1- Joan Belsher	<p>Mrs. Belsher asks about the lack of notice for the special meeting. She comments that the Acting General Director has confirmed by e-mail at 8:45 that morning that the agenda would be made public on the website. The agenda never appeared until 5:15 this evening.</p> <p>Mayor Labadie confirmed that there is no official obligation to publish special meetings but that the intention is to do it, to be transparent and to inform the public.</p> <p>Mrs. Belsher also asked about the new protocol mentioned in the e-mail.</p> <p>Mrs. Laforest explains that with the new staff, new procedures will be in place. A directive has been given that as soon as the Councillors receive their agendas, the agenda should be posted on the website. This should begin immediately. Mrs. Laforest also apologizes for the lateness of the posting. She was expecting the posting to be done at the time of the e-mail.</p> <p>Mrs. Belsher asks if we have hired a new General Director. Mayor Labadie explains that a new posting has gone out. We have as yet, not received any new applications. Mayor Labadie explains the challenges in getting a new GD in this region. Many of our partner municipalities have had an acting General Director for months.</p>
2- Kevin Brady	<p>Mr. Brady indicates that he has received his access to information request for the report on the 2017 flood. He asks about a gap in time, specifically from January to April where there seems to have been a slow-down in the preparation of the report.</p> <p>Mayor Labadie explains that at that time, two key members of the emergency measures team had left the Municipality. Mr. Perras needed more information that mostly had to do with additional partners. The intention was to have Mr. Perras present it to council and then make it public. However, many scheduling conflicts made it difficult. The date that was chosen turned out to be on the day that new emergency measures were declared for 2019 flooding</p>



MUNICIPALITY OF PONTIAC

	<p>therefore, it was impossible to go on with the presentation. At that time, it was decided to give a copy to Councillors and to post the report on the website.</p> <p>Mr. Brady questions why the people involved had not been met to participate in the findings.</p> <p>Mayor Labadie explains that all partners involved in emergency measures have been met. This is a working document for the Municipality to improve their emergency measures not a “how to” document for members of the public.</p> <p>Mr. Brady explains that there were 25 recommendations in the report.</p> <p>Mayor Labadie agrees and explains that staff members had been aware of the recommendations and have applied some of them in preparation for this year’s flood. The meetings with the Ministry of Public Security were set well in advance, contact names for the various partners were confirmed in early March and a plan was in place and ready once the emergency measures declared.</p> <p>Mr. Brady states that he has asked at the three last meetings for the cost to the Municipality of the 2017 flood.</p> <p>Mayor Labadie apologizes for the delay and explains that the request is with the Director of Finances and that all factors will be tabulated to make up this report.</p> <p>Mr. Brady points out some inconsistencies found in the new nuisance bylaw. For example, he mentions “blasphemy and swearing”.</p> <p>Mayor Labadie states that, that bylaw is MRC standardized bylaw. The mayor’s table has formed a committee to review it and to make modifications. For example, “blasphemy” was probably used in the translation for “swearing”. She invites Mr. Brady to point out any other inconsistencies so that they can be brought to the review committee.</p>
3- Carl Hager	<p>Mr. Hager asks why the Municipality is still declaring a state of emergency.</p> <p>Mayor Labadie explains that she hopes Council will approve the renewal as it was strongly recommended by the Ministry of Public Security. The water level is still at a</p>



MUNICIPALITY OF PONTIAC

	<p>critical level and will stay that way for many days yet. It is still a major flood. There are risks on the roads, on the properties and in the homes. There are steps to be followed for the recovery. The first step is the inspection of the roads and following that, the residences. The public needs to understand that we are still in high alert and the emergency measures need to be in place in order to be able to act quickly.</p> <p>Mr. Hager asks when do we decide to lift the state of emergency, because people are already going back to their homes.</p> <p>Mayor Labadie acknowledges that people are going back to their homes but, it is still very dangerous, and it is at their own risks. Emergency vehicles cannot get to them if something should happen. The inspections of some of the roads and homes are starting tomorrow. Firefighters have already verified roads and have a list of homes that will be visited tomorrow. Each resident will receive a document explaining the reintegration and safety measures as well as a compliance form for the integrity of the home. They will also receive clean-up kits.</p> <p>Mr. Hager thanks Mayor Labadie applauds the information given to residents and adds that he will attend the June 10th information meeting.</p> <p>Mayor Labadie explains that the information meeting is a public meeting for the flood victims. There will be a general information presentation then, one on one meetings with individual families.</p>
<p>4- Anita Trudeau</p>	<p>Mrs. Trudeau repeats that meeting postings should be on time. She then asks if the new garbage and recycling schedule is a new contract or a subcontract.</p> <p>Mayor Labadie explains that it is a subcontract to finish the existing one.</p> <p>Mrs. Trudeau wants to know if the Municipality has taken the bond.</p> <p>Mayor Labadie does not have those details.</p>
<p>5- Robert Dinel</p>	<p>Mr. Dinel asks why it was so hard to get sand bags.</p> <p>Mayor Labadie explains that the Municipality distributed over 170 000 sand bags. The distribution of 200 bags at a</p>



MUNICIPALITY OF PONTIAC

	<p>time was in order to ensure that all residents in need could access them fairly. We did not have all these bags available at the same time.</p> <p>Mr Dinel deplores the fact that once the evacuation order was given, no more bags were available. He states that he stayed and managed to save his house.</p> <p>Mayor Labadie explains that as a Municipality, it is our duty to ensure the safety of its citizens. Those citizens that chose to stay did so at great risk and could technically have been fined. There were no forced evacuations however, waivers were signed.</p>
6-Kevin Brady	<p>Mr. Brady states that there was some confusion about the 200 bags.</p> <p>Mayor Labadie admits that yes there was confusion. We had organized volunteers to start at a certain time, people were coming earlier. Some had understood that it was a total of 200 and not 200 at a time.</p>
7-Robert Dinel	<p>Mr. Dinel claims that the Municipality should have started distribution ahead of time.</p> <p>Mayor Labadie explains that the water needs to be at a certain level and a state of emergency must be officially declared before distribution of bags can begin. The process must be followed.</p>
8-Joan Belsher	<p>Mrs. Belsher asks why the Municipality did not accept help from the high school students.</p> <p>Mayor Labadie adds that the students did help however there was some confusion because they did not come in, in the usual manner. Our volunteer coordinator had not been advised and needed to assign them to a task. Their help was greatly appreciated.</p>
9-Robert Dinel	<p>Mr. Dinel said that he came to get water but was denied. He also claims that he did not qualify for help from the Red Cross because he chose to stay in his house and watch his pump.</p> <p>Mayor Labadie confirms that only registered evacuees are eligible for the Red Cross relief.</p>
Second question period	
10-Carl Hager	<p>Mr. Hager asks how the Municipality intends on informing the people of the postponement of the June tax payment.</p> <p>Mayor Labadie confirms that only the evacuees are eligible</p>



MUNICIPALITY OF PONTIAC

	<p>for the postponement and that the information will be on the website first thing Monday.</p>
11-Joan Belsher	<p>Mrs. Belsher asks if there is any progress on the Quyon Community Center.</p> <p>Mayor Labadie confirms that an engineer has visited the center today. He was verifying the integrity of a beam. We now need to wait for that report before moving on.</p> <p>Mrs. Belsher states that the public has not been informed of the real issues.</p> <p>Mayor Labadie explains that at the last inspection some inconsistencies had been noted. There is also a question of an over cost payment.</p> <p>Mrs. Belsher asks if the architect has been contacted.</p> <p>Mayor Labadie explains that many people have been trying to contact him but he is not returning calls or e-mails. He seems to be off the radar.</p> <p>Mrs. Belsher asks if we are still going to wait a few months before opening.</p> <p>Mayor Labadie indicates that we are ready to go. The furniture and equipment are ready. As soon as we accept the keys, the gas will be hooked up and the center will be set up.</p>
12-Anita Trudeau	<p>Mrs. Trudeau asks if we are going to extend the TECQ subsidy.</p> <p>Mayor Labadie explains that the Ministry is aware of the time issues, however we are going ahead with TECQ work. A lot is already done. Quiet time is required to fine tune some of the tenders which is really difficult to accomplish at this time. We are also looking into getting some extra support for the Director of Public works.</p>
13-Sue Lamont	<p>Mrs. Lamont asks why it costs the Municipality four hours of work when the workers need to go fix the computer in the water plant. Agua should have remote access.</p> <p>Mayor Labadie explains that after hour call-outs for syndicated workers are determined by the collective agreement. She also explains that AGUA is the designer of the plant but has since gone out of business. VO3 is the new company that has knowledge of the plant and that has been working closely with the Municipality. It is a matter of settling a payment, which was done by resolution tonight.</p>



MUNICIPALITY OF PONTIAC

	<p>Mrs. Lamont goes on to say that for the past years and until February of this year the service from the existing garbage and recycling contractor was excellent. He should not be punished for just a few months of defaults.</p> <p>Mrs. Lamont is also thankful that the nuisance bylaw will be reviewed. She explains that it is stressful to citizens when the police show up and may give out fines. She hopes council will review it and make recommendations.</p>
<p>14-Carl Hager</p>	<p>Mr. Hager asks Council what are the next steps in garbage and sand bag pick-ups once residents are back in their homes. What is the Municipality offering its citizens?</p> <p>Mayor Labadie explains that there are steps to follow and that the emergency measures committee is working on it.</p> <p>Mr. Hager explains that he would like to see more Council involvement. He would like Council to be proactive. People are going to need bins and help with the sand bags. People need to know what to do.</p> <p>Mayor Labadie explains that information has already been given. The committee is working closely with MSP and it has been confirmed that residents are eligible to claim the costs of bins and storage. We need to follow the steps and not give confusing messages.</p>
<p>15- Robert Dinel</p>	<p>A question was asked about the hours of the Urbanism Department. People are being turned back.</p> <p>Mayor Labadie explains that the coordinator for the emergency measures committee is the director of the Urbanism Department. A reminder of the new hours has been put up on the website, on Facebook and in the office. We have hired a temporary employee to help with permits and she is available on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We have posted for two new Urbanism technicians and hope to interview soon. The MRC has also agreed to a partnership where one of its employees will be in Pontiac for two days a week to help with the documentation.</p>

