

**THESE MINUTES ARE THE INTERPRETATION OF THE RECORDER ONLY
AND ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY COUNCIL!**

The Mayor declared the Regular Meeting open at 6:30 p.m. Present in the W. J. Barrett Chambers were Mayor Bill Rosenberg, Deputy Mayor Jordan Bird, Councillors Marcel Baron, Tracey Cooke, Randy Rankin, Kevin King, Lindsay Tallon, Town Superintendent Ken Seabrook, Clerk-Treasurer Debbie Rydall.

Delegations – Rick Watts and Robin MacDonald discussion on more police presence and Crimestoppers.

Resolutions:

2023-15-01: Kevin King – Marcel Baron: “Be it resolved that the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on November 20, 2023 be adopted.”

CARRIED

2023-15-02: Marcel Baron – Randy Rankin: “Be it resolved that the request presented by the Crime Stoppers delegation regarding additional drug enforcement, be forwarded to the Police Services Board for further review.”

CARRIED**2023-15-03: Tracey Cooke – Lindsay Tallon:**

WHEREAS the jury that heard the Carol Culleton, Anastasia Kuzyk, and Nathalie Warmerdam Inquest (The Renfrew County Inquest) issued 86 recommendations to prevent future deaths and delivered those recommendations to the Province of Ontario on Intimate Partner Violence; and

WHEREAS recommendation #1 of the Inquest is for the Province of Ontario to formally declare Intimate Partner Violence an epidemic; and

WHEREAS every six days in Canada a woman is killed by her intimate partner; and

WHEREAS this past year in Ontario, 52 women or one every week, were victims of femicide; and

WHEREAS gender- and sexually-diverse Indigenous individuals are particularly at risk, being five times more likely than non-Indigenous gender- and sexually-diverse individuals to experience intimate partner violence in their lifetime; and

WHEREAS according to Statistics Canada, 80% of intimate partner violence goes unreported; and

WHEREAS violence against women costs the national justice system, health care systems, social service agencies, and municipalities nearly \$10 billion dollars per year; and municipalities are on the front lines in addressing gender-based violence; and

WHEREAS over 60 municipalities and regions across Ontario have declared a gender-based violence and/or intimate partner violence epidemic; and

WHEREAS on August 20, 2023, Ontario Big City Mayors and Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario passed a motion declaring intimate partner violence and gender-based violence an epidemic; called on the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and all municipalities and regions in Ontario and Canada to do the same; and called for changes to the Criminal Code; and

WHEREAS Thessalon Town Council recognizes that issues of gender-based violence and intimate partner violence are matters of local importance, including public health, EMS, community services, and community safety:

"NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That Council of The Town of Thessalon declare an epidemic in intimate partner violence and gender-based violence in accordance with recommendation #1 of the Renfrew County Inquest;

That the Town request the Police Service Board to integrate intimate partner violence into the Police Service's Community Safety and Well Being Plan in accordance with recommendation #10 of the Renfrew County Inquest;

That a copy of this motion be sent to The Honourable Arif Virani, Minister of Justice; The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; The Honourable Charmaine A. Williams, Associate Minister of Women's Social and Economic Opportunity; The Honourable Parm Gill, Minister of Red Tape Reduction; MP Carol Hughes; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities; the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities; the Algoma District Municipal Association; Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario; and Ontario's Big City Mayors."

CARRIED

2023-15-04: Marcel Baron– Randy Rankin: “Be it resolved that Council authorizes the submission of an application through the Experience Ontario 2024 program, for the Thessalon Community Days Events.” **CARRIED**

2023-15-05: Kevin King – Marcel Baron: “Be it resolved that Council authorizes the removal of the Town-owned property with the legal description of PLAN 8 LOT 15 SPT LOT 14NPT from the Town Property Surplus List.” **CARRIED**

2023-15-06: Kevin King – Marcel Baron: “Be it resolved that, in order to clarify property size and lot lines, Council authorizes that a title search be completed for the Town-owned property having the legal description of PLAN 8 LOT 15 SPT LOT 14NPT.” **CARRIED**

2023-15-07: Randy Rankin – Marcel Baron: “Be it resolved that Council approves the revised Lakeside Park Operations Manual dated December 4, 2023.” **CARRIED**

2023-15-08: Randy Rankin – Marcel Baron: “Be it resolved that Council approves the draft letter detailing the 2023 hydro meter billing and further that, this letter be supplied to the residents at the Lakeside Park.” **CARRIED**

2023-15-09: Kevin King – Marcel Baron: “Be it resolved that Council approves the “Confirmation Letter of Applicant”, the “Confirmation of Probation Period”, and the “Resignation/Thank you Letter of Service” forms and further that, these forms become appendices within the Volunteer Firefighter Booklet.” **CARRIED**

2023-15-10: Kevin King – Marcel Baron: “Be it resolved that Council agrees to support the initiative presented by Jim Kent, the Algoma District Zone 1 Mutual Aid Coordinator, to circulate a letter to different companies in hopes of raising an estimated amount of \$30,000 for the purchase of bunker gear washing units to be shared with our surrounding communities.” **CARRIED**

2023-15-11: Kevin King – Marcel Baron: “Be it resolved that Council approves the membership to the Canadian Volunteer Fire Services Association with an annual fee of \$30.00.” **CARRIED**

2023-15-12: Kevin King – Marcel Baron: “Be it resolved that Council approves the application of Ashton Shaw as a new volunteer firefighter, subject to a probationary period of six (6) months.” **CARRIED**

2023-15-13: Kevin King – Randy Rankin: “Be it resolved that Council approves the successful completion of Draeden Moran’s probationary period.” **CARRIED**

2023-15-14: Kevin King – Randy Rankin: “Be it resolved that Council accepts the resignation of Caden King with regret, and further that a letter of thanks be sent to him for his service on the Fire Department.” **CARRIED**

2023-15-15: Jordan Bird – Kevin King: “Be it resolved that Council authorize the Sustainability Through Environmental Practices Committee to complete further research regarding the option of allowing chickens, (no roosters) within our municipality and further that, the results be presented at an upcoming Council meeting.” **CARRIED**

2023-15-16: Jordan Bird – Kevin King: “Be it resolved that the Accounts Payable for December 18, 2023 in a total amount of \$542,159.65 be approved for payment, noting that for any member of Council who has declared a pecuniary interest with regard to any account, their approval is based on this account(s) being excluded from the total accounts payable.”

Declaration: Councillor Randy Rankin declared a conflict of interest relating to the Rankin Supply and North Shore Sentinel accounts.

Declaration: Mayor Bill Rosenberg declared a conflict of interest relating to the Bill Rosenberg account. **CARRIED**

2023-15-17: Jordan Bird – Kevin King: “Be it resolved that, since almost 43% of the patients registered in the Doctor’s Unit at the Medical Centre are from the Municipality of Huron Shores, Council approach the Municipality of Huron Shores to inquire if they would consider providing an annual levy to help offset our yearly expenditures.” **CARRIED**

2023-15-18: Jordan Bird – Kevin King: “Be it resolved that, following a review of the revenues and expenses for the Thessalon Public Library, Council accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee that a five percent increase be applied to their current monthly rate of \$871.06 bringing the total to \$914.61, with the increase covering the period from May 1, 2024 to April 30, 2025.”

CARRIED

2023-15-19: Lindsay Tallon – Tracey Cooke: “Be it resolved that, further to Resolution 2023-05-13 regarding an application for funding through the NOHFC - Rural Enhancement Funding Stream for the replacement of the Thessalon Community Complex ice making equipment in the amount of \$500,000, with the Town’s share being \$125,000, the Town of Thessalon is committed to this project and will cover any cost overruns from either reserves or through inclusion in the budget.

CARRIED

2023-15-20: Jordan Bird – Kevin King: “Be it resolved that, further to Resolution 2023-14-22 regarding the application for funding through the NOHFC - Rural Enhancement Funding Stream for the rehabilitation of the Lakeside Park playground, with the Town’s share being \$22,220, the Town of Thessalon is committed to this project and will cover any cost overruns from either reserves or through inclusion in the budget.”

CARRIED

2023-15-21: Marcel Baron – Randy Rankin: “Be it resolved that the Thessalon Community Events and Activities Committee hold public skating from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. and public hockey from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. through the Christmas holidays on December 27th, 28th, 29th, and on January 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th at a cost of \$2.00 per person.”

CARRIED

2023-15-22: Tracey Cooke – Lindsay Tallon: “Be it resolved that Council approve the Deputy Clerk’s request to carry over up to three days, the Maintenance Worker Labourer 3 – Mechanic’s request to carry over up to four and one quarter days, the Arena/Park Labourer 2’s request to carry over up to one day, the Administrative Specialist’s request to carry over any unused days and the Clerk-Treasurer’s request to carry over up to eleven days of unused 2023 vacation.”

CARRIED

2023-15-23: Lindsay Tallon – Tracey Cooke: “Be it resolved that, due to the February 19, 2024 Council meeting falling on Family Day and the May 20, 2024 Council meeting falling on Victoria Day, the Council meetings be changed to Tuesday, February 20, 2024 and Tuesday, May 21, 2024 respectively.”

CARRIED

2023-15-24: Kevin King – Randy Rankin: “Be it resolved that Council acknowledge receipt of the Committee and staff reports.” **CARRIED**

2023-15-25: Randy Rankin – Marcel Baron “Be it resolved that By-law Number 2583, being a by-law to regulate the proceedings of Council, Local Boards, Standing Committees and Committees for the Corporation of the Town of Thessalon, be passed as amended in open Council this 18th day of December, 2023.” **CARRIED**

2023-15-26: Jordan Bird – Kevin King: “Be it resolved that By-law Number 2584, being a by-law to authorize 2023 year-end financial transfers, be passed in open Council this 18th day of December, 2023.” **CARRIED**

2023-15-27: Kevin King – Randy Rankin: “That Council proceed in Closed Session:

In order to address personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees, and specifically, 1) a recommendation regarding the probationary period for Employee Number 028, 2) a recommendation regarding the Arena/Park Labourer 2 position and 3) Staffing Update.

2023-15-28: Kevin King – Randy Rankin: “That Council resume Open Session.” **CARRIED**

2023-15-29: Tracey Cooke – Lindsay Tallon: “Be it resolved that, with regard to Closed Session Item No. 1, Council accept the recommendation of the Human Resources Committee regarding the probationary period for Employee Number 028.” **CARRIED**

2023-15-30: Lindsay Tallon – Tracey Cooke: “Be it resolved that, with regard to Closed Session Item No. 2, Council accepts the recommendation of the Hiring Committee in regards to the Arena/Park Labourer 2 position.” **CARRIED**

2023-15-31: Kevin King – Randy Rankin: “Be it resolved that By-law Number 2585, being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of the meeting of Council held on December 18, 2023, be passed in open Council this 18th day of December, 2023.” **CARRIED**

2023-15-32: Kevin King – Randy Rankin: "That this meeting be adjourned at 7:52 p.m." **CARRIED**

Seal

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer