

Minutes of a Special meeting of the Amherstburg Municipal Council held Wednesday, May 15, 2002 at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

PRESENT:

Mayor Tony DiBartolomeo
Deputy Mayor Robert Pillon
Councillor Mickey Bezaire
Councillor Lynne Fox
Councillor Frank Gorham
Councillor Anthony Leardi
Councillor Rosa White

ALSO PRESENT:

Hilary Payne, CAO
Kristy DeLuca, Tourism Coordinator

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

PETITIONS & DEPUTATIONS

A delegation from the Chamber of Commerce appeared to address Council on the tourism booth issue.

Mr. Carl Gibb stated that the Chamber of Commerce was in agreement with the town operating the tourist function. It would be a win/win situation with the Chamber of Commerce serving the business community.

The mayor identified three issues to be discussed.

- 1) The Gibson Gallery arrangement with the town.
- 2) The ownership of the booth.
- 3) Signage.

Ms. Nancy Greenaway stated that the Town should honour the contract with the Gibson Gallery but that only the Chamber of Commerce existing booth be utilized. A payment of \$5000 could be made to the Gibson Gallery anyway (even if their location was not used).

Councillor Bezaire asked if any contact had been made with the Gibson Gallery regarding leaving that location? The Mayor responded in the negative.

Councillor Pillon suggested a payment of \$2500 to the Gibson Gallery.

Mr. Butcher suggested construction of a privacy wall for the Chamber of Commerce at the booth. Tourism would have two thirds of the space (400 sq.ft.).

Ms. Greenaway and Mr. Renaud said that use of the Chamber of Commerce booth would be a win-win situation.

Mr. Gibb stated that Trillium applications would be more favorably considered if Chamber of Commerce owned building.

Ms. Greenaway asked if the town would pay utilities and maintenance on booth.

Councillor Fox said she was not prepared to renege on agreement with Gibson Gallery. Stay at Gibson Gallery for one season and then discuss.

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Mr. Laframboise stated that tourists would be confused by two booths.

Councillor Gorham referred to commitments made at a joint meeting of the Chamber of Commerce and the Council on September 5th 2001.

Councillor Leardi suggested input be obtained from the Gibson Gallery before making a decision. Councillor Fox concurred.

Mr. Renaud suggested that joint use of booth desirable to serve people intending to move to Amherstburg.

Councillor Fox stated that town would not pay Chamber of Commerce for tourism services but utilities should be shared.

Ms. Greenaway said Chamber of Commerce would not charge rent for booth.

Councillor Leardi suggested the Chamber of Commerce should review their ownership of the building for compatibility with Trillium rules.

Deputy Mayor Pillon suggested we pay the utilities for our period of use.

Ms. Greenaway suggested the possibility of a Trillium grant for improvements and also asked that the town pay the utilities for the entire year.

Councillor Leardi suggested that upgrading of the booth be considered at another time .

The mayor suggested a 25/75 split for maintenance and also that the booth be signed Chamber of Commerce as well as town tourism center.


As regards future joint meetings with the Chamber of Commerce it is suggested that these take place at Council Committee meetings as required.

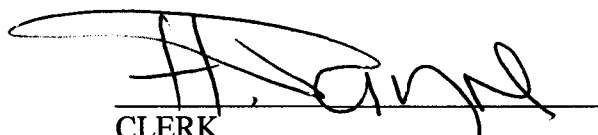
Moved by R. Pillon, seconded by M. Bezaire that the Town tourism function be relocated back to the Chamber of Commerce booth and that consultation take place with the Gibson Gallery regarding terminating the town arrangement with the Gallery.

Motion Carried

Moved by R. Pillon, seconded by A Leardi that there being no further business that the meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried


MAYOR


CLERK