

**MINUTES OF A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING OF THE TOWN OF
CRESTON HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26TH, 2019 IN THE TOWN OF
CRESTON COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 238 - 10TH AVENUE NORTH AT 3:00 P.M.**

PRESENT Mayor Ron Toyota
Councillor Jen Comer
Councillor Arnold DeBoon
Councillor Jim Elford
Councillor Ellen Tzakis
Councillor Karen Unruh
Councillor Joanna Wilson

STAFF Michael Moore, Chief Administrative Officer
Ross Beddoes, Director of Community Services
Jared Riel, Fire Chief
Bev Caldwell, Corporate Officer
Marsha Neufeld, Executive Assistant

GALLERY Mike Gibbons, Creston Masonic Lodge
Pat Kavanagh, Creston
David Butt, Creston Masonic Lodge
Ron Waugh, Creston Masonic Lodge
Garry Burch, Creston Masonic Lodge
Rita Burch, Creston
Tony Mulder, Creston Masonic Lodge
Howard Colwell, Creston Masonic Lodge
Jim Sadler, Creston Masonic Lodge
Scott Veitch, Creston Masonic Lodge
Cameron Goforth, Creston Masonic Lodge
Dallas Magrum, Resident

CALL TO ORDER Mayor Toyota called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

AGENDA Moved by Councillor Unruh, seconded by Councillor Comer
THAT the agenda be adopted to include the addition of Business Item b) Council
Direction Request from the Chief Administrative Officer with respect to Cemetery
fees.

MOTION CARRIED

DELEGATION Mayor Toyota welcomed Mr. Mike Gibbons and other members in the Gallery of
► MASONIC LODGE the Creston Masonic Lodge, to the meeting at 3:02 p.m.
RE CORNERSTONE
CEREMONY

Mr. Gibbons requested that the Creston Masonic Lodge be permitted to partner with the Town in a "Cornerstone Ceremony" for the new Fire Hall facility, with a proposed dedication date of June 6, 2020. Mr. Gibbons presented information about the Creston Masonic Lodge, the history of a "Cornerstone Ceremony" for public buildings, and the concept of having a local ceremony for the soon to be constructed new public Fire Hall building. The actual dedication of the cornerstone would be delivered by the Grand Lodge of BC and Yukon as this is not carried out by the local Masonic Lodge members. The date of June 6, 2020 has been discussed with Town staff and works well for the local Freemasons and the Grand Lodge representatives.

Mr. Gibbons stated that a Public Cornerstone Dedication has been practiced by Freemasons for over three hundred years. The custom has been to lay the cornerstone, symbolizing a square and a true foundation of a building, with symbolic representation of the Emergency Services as the cornerstone and foundation of a solid community. Some examples of what the cornerstone could look like, and options with sample wording on the stone or plaque, were presented. A deposit box or time capsule (contents to be determined by the Town) could be imbedded into the bottom of the cornerstone.

Mr. Gibbons advised that the 'Dedication Day' could comprise of a parade of pedestrians and emergency vehicles; an Invocation; guest speakers (request speakers make no reference to politics or religion); a Masonic Ceremony; and an "Apres Event" – social gathering at the Masonic Hall. Mr. Gibbons proposed a list of invitees to the Cornerstone Ceremony and offered the services of the members of the Creston Masonic Lodge in planning the event.

Councillor DeBoon asked if there were any other 'cornerstones' in the community, to which Mr. Gibbons advised that the only other 'cornerstone' in Creston is located at the Masonic Temple, which was installed in 1938.

The Chief Administrative Officer advised that it is not known as to the construction status of the new Fire Hall building as of June 6, 2020; however, if Council was receptive to that date for the Ceremony, staff would work with the architect to design a location for the cornerstone or plaque. Mr. Gibbons stated that should construction not be at a point where a cornerstone or plaque could be installed on June 6, 2020, the local Masons have a stone that can be used symbolically until one is available.

In response to the question of how involved the local Masons are in the community, Mr. Gibbons and several members of the Masonic Lodge members in the Gallery advised that there are many programs and events that the members participate in to support the local community and others. Some of the programs and events are:

- Cancer Car Program (pick up patients from hotels, airports, etc. to transport them to treatment facilities.
- Shriner's Hospital, etc.
- Higher Education Bursary Fund.
- Christmas dinner at Masonic Hall, with proceeds to the local Ministerial Fund.

Mayor Toyota thanked Mr. Gibbons for his presentation and the proposal from the Creston Masonic Lodge for a 'Cornerstone Ceremony' for the future new Fire Hall building, and for their efforts in bringing back a long-standing tradition.

Mr. Gibbons and other Masonic Lodge members left the meeting at 3:24 p.m.

RECOMMENDATION 1:

THAT the presentation from the Creston Masonic Lodge, regarding a proposal for a 'Cornerstone Ceremony' for the new Fire Hall building in Creston, be received; AND FURTHER, THAT staff bring forward a Request for Decision to the December 17, 2019 Regular Council meeting, regarding the invitation from the Creston Masonic Lodge request to partner in a 'Cornerstone Ceremony' for the new Fire Hall building in Creston.

BUSINESS ITEMS

► MASONIC LODGE RE CORNERSTONE CEREMONY

► CEMETERY FEES

QUESTION PERIOD

RECOMMENDATION 2:

THAT the Council Direction Request from the Chief Administrative Officer, regarding Cemetery Fees, be received; THAT staff is directed to draft an amendment to the Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 1763 to amend the Cemetery Fees to provide for appropriate commission fee for Funeral Homes that have a valid Town of Creston Business Licence, when acting as an agent for the Town with respect to the sale of a columbarium niche or Cemetery plot in Town owned cemeteries, for Council's consideration at the December 17, 2019 Regular Council meeting; AND FURTHER, THAT staff develop a policy relating to commissions within Cemetery Fees, for Council's consideration at a future Council meeting.

ADJOURN

There were no questions from the Gallery.
The meeting adjourned at 3:49 p.m.

AS TO THE MINUTES OF THIS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING:

Mayor Ron Toyota

Bev Caldwell, Corporate Officer