

RM of Springfield Council Meeting
November 21, 2023 6 p.m.

WITHOUT PREJUDICE (E&OE)

LENGTH OF MEETING 1hour 8minutes

2. CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION - CouncillorFuhl - Ok, everybody's good. I'll call the meeting to order at 6 o'clock uh 6 p.m. Uh just an introduction here uh Mayor Patrick Therrien is uh home sick today. He has a cold and um I'm the Deputy Mayor so I'm chairing the meeting today. Also to my right is Andy Kuczynski uh Ward 2 and Mark Miller Ward 3. Uh Melinda Warren is uh unable to attend today due to health reasons. Thank you. Um so if we get the...I'll read the invocation or I'll get uh Mark if you want to do the Invocation. **Councillor Miller** - Thank you, Mr. Deputy Mayor. Um for those who wish to join me in prayer I'll open by invocation. Father God, thank you for today. We ask that You give us wisdom, knowledge and insight into our deliberations tonight. We ask that Your hand of healing go on uh our Mayor as well as Councillor Warren and Lord, we ask that you uh give us uh sensibility in the decisions we make tonight. We pray all these things in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen. **CouncillorFuhl** - Amen. **NOTE: Not to be sacrilegious but I do believe due to the fact that not everyone in the RM of Springfield may be of the same faith, it is better to eliminate the Invocation or make it more general and not specific to one religion.**

3. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT - CouncillorFuhl - Uh so number 3, Land Acknowledgement. The RM of Springfield acknowledges that we are gathered on ancestral lands, Treaty One territory, traditional territory of the Anishinaabe Cree OG Cree Dakota, and Dene peoples, on the national homeland of the Red River Metis.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA - CouncillorFuhl - Can I get approval of the agenda? Mark, and seconded by Andy, Mr. Kuczynski. (Miller/Kuczynski) **Colleen Draper, CAO** - I know there was a request from uh Councillor Warren to defer one item. Did Council want to make that amendment? **CouncillorFuhl** - Uh who's making that amendment? **Mayor Therrien** - I'd support that. **Colleen Draper** - Uh so that would be amending 11.1 uh Notice to Reconsider the Resolution. **CouncillorFuhl** - Uh Mr. Miller. **Councillor Miller** - Uh thank you Mr. Deputy Mayor. Yes, I'm fine with uh Councillor Warren's uh comment and also I would like to ask if under Unfinished Business that we could add some items that we discussed at the C.O.W. meeting (Committee of the Whole) to keep them relevant and ongoing and what I mean specifically is Council Engagement Sessions, Water Treatment Plant Open Houses, Zoning By-law 21-25 Consultation with the Public so those could also be added to the agenda as ongoing Unfinished Business. It would be useful, I think, to all of us. **Colleen Draper** - Are you asking to add those tonight for discussion then cause if they're on the agenda, typically because they're to be discussed. **Councillor Miller** - Right, right, no... **Colleen Draper** - For future. Ok. **CouncillorFuhl** - So they won't be on this agenda, then. Ok. **NOTE: Well, that is not what was said. They are on this agenda but noted under Unfinished Business.** **Colleen Draper** - Ok *Be it Resolved that the agenda be amended as follows: defer Item 11.1.* **CouncillorFuhl** - All in favour? Passed. Unanimous.

5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES Council Minutes - November 7, 2023- CouncillorFuhl - Ok, we have uh a Delegation at 6:15 so we will go till Question Period. Or sorry, I'm getting ahead of myself sorry here. Adoption of the Minutes. A mover, Mark Miller first and second Andy Kuczynski (Miller/Kuczynski). All in favour? So moved. Sorry, I'm a little rough at this (laughing) but we'll get better as we go. Ok, um By-laws, we don't have any. Question Period, Number 6.

6. QUESTION PERIOD - CouncillorFuhl - Only questions pertaining to the current agenda items. Any questions from the audience or on line? Darryl? **Darryl Speer, Oakbank** - Uh my question pertains to uh the Rescinding of Resolution of 23-045. **Colleen Draper** - That item has been removed from the agenda this evening. **Darryl Speer** - And so, I'd still like to express my question. **Colleen Draper** - Well, I think any discussion would happen when it's added to the next available agenda. **Lady in the Audience** - It's on the agenda. **Colleen Draper** - It's been... **CouncillorFuhl** - Well, it's still been moved off... **Colleen Draper** - It's been deferred from the agenda. **NOTE: "Deferred" from the agenda does not mean "Removed" from the agenda. The item is still on the agenda but it has been deferred for discussion at a later date.** **CouncillorFuhl** - Uh Mark Miller, go ahead. **Councillor Miller** - (laughing) Thanks Mr. Deputy Mayor. Just a comment. It was on the agenda (laughing) about 3 minutes ago. I think it's only fair for the public to speak to it in some context if that's the question. I mean, it **would be kind of dirty and underhanded if we pulled it and not give them an opportunity.** They invested some time to come here, it's something that we pulled from the agenda so I think we can use our common sense to let him uh speak to it. **Colleen Draper** - Ya, it's just unfortunate that Councillor Warren isn't hearing the same information as you and I think that is why she wanted it deferred until she's here to see all uh or hear all the input so ... **Councillor Miller** - The good news is ..exactly...the good news is there's Minutes and also audio so she can refer back to them. I know I personally refer back to the audio because as you know, the Minutes don't capture everything and sometimes the important bullets like these uh are stricken from the record, so to speak so I would give latitude for this person to give us some information and he can repeat it when it comes on the agenda if he so wishes in future, at a future meeting. **CouncillorFuhl** - Uh does Council have any other discussion on this or just again, being that it was deferred...see any reason why Darryl shouldn't speak to this at this time uh Patrick. **Mayor Therrien** - I, uh I understand ... **CouncillorFuhl** - Uh Mr. Speer...I'm not sure who the lady in the audience - why he's on Zoom, he's not here but he's on Zoom. **Mayor Therrien** - But it's a matter of clarity towards Melinda and I understand what Mark is saying that she can look at the Minutes and so on like that but we made uh a concerted effort here in Oakbank ..we were hoping she was able to come in but she's not ..she's not physically able to do so um so if there's..if you're having a question now, you know, then you're just going to repeat the question when Melinda's back here so to give some time and save us some time, we can allow some other people to have their questions. **CouncillorFuhl** - So I just wanted to clarify, I just want to clarify, maybe I worded that wrong at the beginning of the meeting, that's he's not here because he is sick but he is on Zoom attending the meeting. **NOTE: Someone in the audience is saying "why can't he vote...I have no problem with him attending by Zoom but then he has to vote on your resolutions. Like, I'm sorry..." Ya, but when I went to the vote, I said it was unanimous. Did he abstain? No, he voted, did he not.** **Mayor Therrien** - I voted. (sigh) I voted. I voted. **Councillor Miller** - You know, is it that difficult to allow a person in this Chamber. I'm getting sick and tired of it. It's been a year now that we've closed down the public. Why are we doing this every time. It is just unconscionable. Like, give him an opportunity to speak ...if he wants to repeat it.... **CouncillorFuhl** - So I'll ..I'll...I'll say

this, Darryl, I'll let you speak but again, Melinda's not here and Patrick as well, he's on Zoom so I'll let you speak this time. Go ahead. **Darryl Speer ,Oakbank** - Ok, my first question is related to this uh 13.1. On the February 27th. 2023 Council meeting minutes, Removal of Hats in Council Chambers, Resolution 23-045 uh moved by Glen Fuhl, seconded by Melinda Warren, "be it resolved that no hats be worn in the Council chambers when a meeting is in session including Council, Committee of the Whole, Planning and Special meetings. My question is, why was there no provision for exceptions for this uh medical reasons uh a person with hair loss like my wife went through cancer, lost her hair so she would not be comfortable being here without having a head covering, uh those with religious reasons, uh strict Mennonites, people of the Jewish faith, Sikhs and those with personal reasons, no hats in Chambers was not a compliant policy but "my rule, in my Chamber" as stated by the Mayor Therrien on February the 27th. 2023 with a threat to a certain citizen in the gallery that he would be forcibly removed by Police for causing a disturbance. **The Mayor was creating the disturbance.** This policy was enacted directly at the conclusion of that February 27th. meeting and without a hereto and consistency by the Mayor or Council. Noticeable was the attendance at a Planning meeting by a Mr. D.J. Trudeau, Commercial Real Estate Agent for the Matheson Industrial Park. Mr. Trudeau wore a black sailor hat during his attendance and presentation. There was no request for him to remove his hat or himself. Mr. Ted Cole made a presentation to Council explaining that he wears his hat out of respect for the sacrifices of our war veterans. The Council and Mayor appeared to accept his position as he was not challenged until.... **NOTE: Suddenly Mr. Speer cannot be heard although he can be seen to be talking.** **CouncillorFuhl** - Something happened there. Hold it. Wait a second. Sorry. **Darryl Speer** - Ok, where do I go back to? **CouncillorFuhl** - Just back up a little bit..it was off for a little bit there. **Darryl Speer** - Uh Mr. Ted Cole made his presentation to Council explaining that he wears his hat out of respect for the sacrifice of our war veterans. The Council and Mayor appeared to accept his position and he was not challenged until October 26th. Planning Meeting. Mayor Therrien proceeded to attack Mr. Cole for wearing his hat, for not wearing it ..for not removing it and proceeded to make numerous threats and then recessing the meeting until Police attended and escorted him off the premises. This resulted in a 20 minute delay in the meeting for a **disturbance created not by Mr. Cole but by Mayor Therrien.** Mr. Cole has been charged for trespassing, fined \$672. and banned from all Municipal staffed buildings. My question is, is this how we are as ratepayers being served? **CouncillorFuhl** - Thanks, Darryl. **Darryl Speer** - Anybody have questions? **CouncillorFuhl** - Does anybody have questions? Mr. Miller? **Councillor Miller** - Thank you, Mr. Deputy Mayor and thank you Mr. Speer for your question and that's actually one of the reasons uh Councillor Kuczynski and myself uh want to rescind this resolution is because of the command and control and the intolerance that I see within this Chamber and I think it's regrettable. You raised the points I'm also going to raise about exclusions. Um I was just at CancerCare Manitoba this afternoon. If I was to ask anyone of those people to remove their hat or their head covering, I think it would be shameful and an absolute disrespect. Beyond that, other people and I'll be blunt, some people who are bald or whatnot don't like to remove their hats and that's a personal preference. In fact, that can be bridging on not only intolerance but it could be a whole bunch of other things uh such as their personal uh favoritism or their fav...what I'm trying to say not favoritism but uh uh pardon...it's a bias for sure and of course, there's so many other reasons too. Ted Cole, for instance, specifically that you talked about is one who's upholding not only the veterans of Canada but the veterans in our community and so his hat has always been *Lest We Forget*, I remember that and so he has the utmost respect for our veterans uh and I think again that's disrespectful. I know our Mayor comes from a background of wearing hats in the R.C.M.P. and they probably have a protocol but in all due reality, in all due reality, do any other municipalities have this mandate, this by-law, this resolution. I don't know of one but yet, but yet, this is the same individual that argues against my lobbying by-law because no other municipality has something, we shouldn't do it so why doesn't he put the same uh practical theme to something like this? Um if it's out of the ordinary, we ought not to do it is what he might argue and he's on line, he can debate and discuss that but I feel that this isn't uh this isn't the place for us to mandate hats, my goodness. The last year we've seen such turmoil, the Police called on such petty issues and as you mentioned, Mr. Speer, don't you think our time could be served much better than arguing, you know, for someone to offload their hat. So I just wanted your opinion. **Darryl Speer** - Well my perspective is that this has not been an issue in this Council for the years I've been uh attending, which is over 20 years and uh now it came to the fore and usually this is referred back to Administration for review of what the policy should be, of what other policies that would be parallel in other municipalities, and what is reasonable, and I don't believe we got any of that so I think we've got good grounds for rescinding this motion. **CouncillorFuhl** - Thank you, Darryl. Any other questions at this time? Uh Gloria. **Gloria Romaniuk** - Uh my name is Gloria Romaniuk and I'm a long time resident of Cooks Creek but I'm here to read a couple of paragraphs from Dr. Eve Pip if I could. She can't be here tonight. I think they're helpful and deductive kind of in a legal sense that might help with decision making. That be alright to do that? **CouncillorFuhl** - What is this in regards to? **Gloria Romaniuk** - To the same issue Darryl was talking about. **CouncillorFuhl** - Ok. **Gloria Romaniuk** - I should begin her e-mail by saying I can share it. Um she says because of the diversity of hats in our diverse society, especially religious ones, does this exclusionary hat rule apply only to white people, specifically white men, who are thus assumed to have no religion. If all the visible minorities are allowed to have their head gear, why are white people discriminated against. This is the second paragraph in her e-mail. In the first paragraph she lists a number of different types of hats. She says, yes in a law court and judicial proceedings, it is usual for the white men to doff their hats when the judge enters the room. Turbans can stay on. The judge presides over life and death. This is the tradition of the beatification and worship that has come down from Medieval times. **NOTE: According to Google, Knights removed helmets in the presence of a king as a display of vulnerability and trust that the King would not kill them.** For example, when you go to beg a favour from the Lord of the Manor with hat in hand to grovel and acknowledge your inferiority. Is a Municipal council meeting a judicial proceeding where oaths are sworn? What about Municipal buildings and law courts, hats can be worn by everybody including the white men in the hallways and offices and bathrooms and cafeterias. And from the other e-mail, just trying to keep it brief, she also lists the different number of hats of different uh nationalities and religions, uh she says, what about non-religious cultural dress and costumes. The traditional Ukrainian male "shapka", married women's "ochipok" and married women's ribboned flowered head piece and other ... Therefore should they be counselled to find what constitutes a hat as differentiated from all of these other garbs which would then become discriminatory and unconstitutional and contravenes the Charter of Human Rights and freedom of expression. Also does this restriction apply only to men? Is this gender discriminatory or are women's church hats and bonnets, mantillas etc. also verboten? What about winter ski caps and hoods of jackets and parkas? Is a toque a hat? Is R.C.M.P. headgear illegal indoors? Medical head restraining devices ...would construction safety helmets, medical mask and face shields also be out? Who will adjudicate, arbitrate disputes? The Human Rights Tribunal? Ok, and then she says I'm free to circulate this so uh I would agree with her that this is a trivial matter and along with what uh Mr. Speer said, Council is...has so many other issues to deal with, this becomes just a power struggle and I'm sorry to see that it goes this way. Uh I would like to see something resolved so that everybody feels fine about it but really, maybe we could just let it go. And that's my thought. **CouncillorFuhl** - Thanks, Gloria. **Gloria Romaniuk** - Questions? **CouncillorFuhl** - Any questions, Miller...uh Mr. Miller? **Councillor Miller** - Uh thanks again, Mr. Deputy Mayor and thanks uh Gloria for your presentation. And I also echo what concerns you have. It can be a mental health issue for people

who feel that that's part of their uh who they subscribe to or it's a person, in terms of Dr. Eva Pip, of course we can't ask her any specific questions but uh I appreciate your sharing her uh concern as well. Uh in terms of head gear, ya I think it's very trivial. Uh as I've echoed in this Chamber, we're spending far too much time on it and frankly, frankly we ought to welcome everyone in this Chamber despite what they're wearing. So that's kind of the thrust of it. Uh I would never want to ban somebody because of their wearing their hat or their skin colouring or anything else. Putting a hat in that attribute, you may as well say I don't like your skin colour. It can go as far as that, as you've said, it throws up a human rights violation. Thank you for your presentation. **Gloria Romaniuk** - I'll just add, it becomes a distraction, it takes away from real communication and discussion. **Councillor Fuhl** - Thanks, Gloria. Mr. uh Mayor Therrien, go ahead. Ok, unmute yourself. **Mayor Therrien** - I'm not...I've got many, many notes here. Uh I'm not going to...I think it's just ludicrous uh um uh the religious garb who would force people out uh we've got to use some common sense here. Some people are all over the map uh on this. It's uh, there's uh no intolerance...of course it's uh there was a gentleman there, a Sikh gentleman had a hat on. I asked him to remove it, he did so willingly and he had his uh Sikh uh turban on there. I didn't ask him to remove that. Like people got to start ..you got a legitimate beef **with regards to this** and that it's taking up our time, we're not looking at this. This was brought back to rescind so we're going to discuss it with all of Council so I don't want to uh elaborate any more than what I'm going to elaborate when Melinda is able to take part in this discussion. But to say that it's a religious thing and we're going to devolve into religious uh intolerances and skin colours and

7. BY-LAWS

8. DELEGATION

8.1 Janet Nylen: Re: Civic Engagement and Dialogue

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - NOTE: Not that this was mentioned here but I took the liberty of including these items as requested by Councillor Miller. Council Engagement Sessions, Water Treatment Plant Open Houses, Zoning By-law 21-25 Consultation with the Public

10. CONSENT AGENDA 10.1 AMM News Bulletin Nov. 10, 2023 10.2 Manitoba Good Roads Association Awards - Rick & Terry Wilson; RM of Springfield; 10.3 The Compassionate Friends Inc. Winnipeg chapter - Thank You.

11. NEW BUSINESS

11.1 Notice to Reconsider Resolution 23-045

11.2 Recreation Maintenance Reserve Transfers

11.3 List of Accounts

11.4 Financial Statement - October 2023

11.5 2022 Draft Audited Financial Statements

11.6 Committee Appointments 2023-2024

11.7 Appointment of Deputy Mayor

11.8 Ward Appropriations

12. CLOSED MEETING

13. RETURN FROM CLOSED MEETING

14. ADJOURNMENT