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MEWS: Nunavut October 10, 2018 - 3:24 pm

Nunavut mayor charged with assault

Baker Lake hamlet councillors demand that Shawn Attungala resign

SARAH ROGERS

Baker Lake's hamlet council has passed a motion of non-confidence in its sitting mayor, who was charged with assault last month.

Shawn Attungala, who was elected mayor of the Kivalliq community in December 2017, faces one charge of assault following a Sept. 8 domestic dispute, the Nunavut RCMP said.

When the hamlet council met last on Sept. 27, councillor Sarah Anirniq made a motion of non-confidence, requesting the mayor resign from his position.

The vote passed with the support of six councillors, while one councillor

abstained. Attungala, 44, did not attend the in-camera session that preceded the vote.

The motion is non-binding, however, and Attungala remains mayor as of Oct. 10, said the hamlet's senior administrative officer, Sheldon Dorey.

Attungala is due to appear in court Dec. 4.



Baker Lake's hamlet council has called on the community's mayor, Shawn Attungala, to resign after he was charged with assault in September. (FILE PHOTO)

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Restriction on delegation

- (2) A council may not delegate to a board or commission or to a committee of council:
 - (a) a power or duty to pass by-laws;
 - (b) its power to make, suspend or revoke the appointment of a person to the position of senior administrative officer, or
 - (c) its powers under this Act to adopt budgets.

Delegation to committee of council

(3) A council may delegate to a committee of council a duty to hear complaints or decide appeals imposed on it by this or another enactment or by-law. S.Nu. 2003,c.2,s.12; S.Nu. 2012,c.17,s.5(7)(e),(9).

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Entitlement to vote

32. (1) Subject to subsection (2), every council member has one vote at a meeting of council or a committee of council.

Vote of presiding member

(2) The right of the mayor or other presiding council member to vote is subject to the rules passed under paragraph 29(b.1). R.S.N.W.T. 1988,c.31(Supp.),s.5.

Responsibilities of council members

- 32.1. Council members have the following responsibilities:
 - to consider the welfare and interests of the municipality as a whole and to bring to council's attention anything that would promote the welfare or interests of the municipality;
 - (b) to participate generally in developing and evaluating the policies and programs of the municipal corporation;
 - to participate in council meetings and council committee meetings and meetings of other bodies to which they are appointed by the council;
 - (d) to keep in confidence matters discussed in private at a council or council committee meeting until they are discussed at a meeting held in public;
 - to perform any duty or function imposed on council members by this or any other enactment or by the council.
 S.Nu. 2003,c.2,s.13; S.Nu. 2012,c.17,s.5(9).

Deemed resignation for non-attendance

33. A council may, by by-law, provide that where any council member is absent from regular meetings of council, without the consent of the council, more than a certain number of times specified in the by-law, the council member shall be deemed to have resigned.

Current to: 2018-09-01

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 - (d) to keep in confidence matters discussed in private at a council or council committee meeting until they are discussed at a meeting held in public;
 - to perform any duty or function imposed on council members by this or any other enactment or by the council.
 S.Nu. 2003,c.3,s.14; S.Nu. 2013,c.20,s.15(11).

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Indemnities and allowances to council members

- 34. Subject to the approval of the Minister, a council may, by by-law, provide for the payment of
 - (a) an annual indemnity
 - (i) to the mayor, and
 - (ii) to the councillors;
 - (b) an indemnity to council members for attending meetings of council or for performing any other duties; and
 - (c) a reasonable allowance for expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of a council member's duties.
- 35. Repealed, S.Nu. 2003, c.3, s.15.