

Town Council Meeting Minutes
October 19, 2009
Town Council Chambers

Present

Mayor C. Chisholm, Chair
Deputy Mayor D. MacInnis
Councillor S. Cameron
Councillor L. Chisholm
Councillor W. Cormier
Councillor J. MacPherson
Councillor D. Roberts

D. Kampen, MPA, Chief Administrative Officer
D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk

Media

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:45 PM.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor W. Cormier
Seconded by Councillor L. Chisholm
"That the Agenda be approved as circulated." Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor L. Chisholm
Seconded by Councillor W. Cormier
"That the Minutes of the meeting held on September 21, 2009, (regular) be edited with one correction, and the Minutes of the meeting held on September 28, 2009 (e-mail poll), be approved as circulated." Motion carried.

Business from the Minutes

- Eastern Mainland Housing Authority Board Town Representative
CAO D. Kampen advised that an advertisement is scheduled to appear in the local paper next week seeking expressions of interest for a Town Representative to sit on the Eastern Mainland Housing Authority Board.

Correspondence

- FCM re Partnership Agreement with CGI Communications Inc. (re Website) – referred from September 21, 2009
Council was advised by CAO D. Kampen and Deputy Clerk D. Wilson that comments received from the Chamber of Commerce in reference to possible changes to the website were vague and not very supportive. Council generally agreed not to enter into a partnership agreement with CGI Communications Inc. at this time.

- Clean Nova Scotia re Declaration of October 19-25 as Waste Reduction Week
Moved by Deputy Mayor D. MacInnis
Seconded by Councillor W. Cormier
“That Council declare the week of September 19-25, 2009, as Waste Reduction Week.” Motion carried.

Staff Reports

- Comptroller’s Report
Moved by Councillor W. Cormier
Seconded by Deputy Mayor D. MacInnis
“To accept the Comptroller’s Report for information.” Motion carried.

In response to a query from Councillor W. Cormier on partial funding for the People’s Place Library, CAO D. Kampen advised that an application for funding in the amount of \$300,000.00 will be applied for through ecoNova Scotia.

- Electric Utility Manager’s Report
Moved by Councillor W. Cormier
Seconded by Councillor S. Cameron
“To accept the Electric Utility Manager’s Report for information.” Motion carried.

Councillor L. Chisholm suggested that Council consider placing information on the Town’s LED Streetlight Pilot Project in the upcoming Talk of the Town in an effort to garner feedback. Brief discussion took place on a recent power outage which caused some of the LED lights to malfunction.

- Engineer’s Report
Moved by Councillor D. Roberts
Seconded by Deputy Mayor D. MacInnis
“To accept the Engineer’s Report for information.” Motion carried.

In response to a query from Councillor D. Roberts regarding replacement of the Canal Bridge, CAO D. Kampen advised that no updates had been received lately, and no activity is expected this year. Councillor D. Roberts raised concern with the ongoing delays in activity. Mayor C. Chisholm advised that due to the recent election, no budget was in place however, he noted the project is high on the Province’s priority list.

- Planning/Building Services Department Report
The Planning/Building Services Department Report was not available.

- Recreation Report
Moved by Deputy Mayor D. MacInnis
Seconded by Councillor D. Roberts
“To accept the Recreation Report for information.” Motion carried.

Committee Reports

- Fire Committee Report
Councillor D. Roberts reported that an unveiling had been held for the newly purchased ladder truck for the Antigonish Volunteer Fire Department, and thanked everyone involved for their interest and support in the project.

- Recreation Committee Report

Deputy Mayor D. MacInnis reported that the Recreation Committee meeting had been cancelled.

- Police and License Committee Report

Moved by Councillor J. MacPherson

Seconded by Councillor W. Cormier

“To recommend to Council to seek out an appropriate decibel level for outdoor concerts, etc. so that such events will not interfere with the enjoyment of people’s properties and amend the Noise By-law accordingly.

Councillor J. MacPherson noted that this motion had come about as a result of discussions regarding a recent event held on the campus of St. FX University.

- Waste Management Committee Report

Councillor J. MacPherson reminded Council of upcoming events including October 19-25 – Waste Reduction Week; October 23-24 – Household Hazardous Waste Drop off; and October 26, 27 and 28 – Bulky Waste Collection at curbside. He further noted that this would be the first time that the Town has implemented a curbside collection of bulky waste items.

Moved by Councillor J. MacPherson

Seconded by Councillor L. Chisholm

“That Council to support a Resolution put forth by the Municipality of the District of Yarmouth to the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities which, if approved, would see a change in the Board structure of the Resource Recovery Fund Board (RRFB).” Motion carried.

Councillor J. MacPherson advised that the motion had come about as a result of concerns raised by the District of Yarmouth with the financial implications of the provincially mandated waste disposal target by 2015, concerns about the level of municipal representation on the Board of the RRFB, and concerns about the funding decisions being made by the Board.

- Planning Advisory Committee

Councillor W. Cormier advised he had nothing to report as the meeting had been cancelled.

- Beautification and Land Rehabilitation Committee

Councillor L. Chisholm reported that the Town had maintained five (5) Blooms in the Communities-in-Bloom Circle of Excellence with recognition of ‘Main Street Floral’. Further, the Town won 1st Place in the Scott’s Award in the Community of Gardeners category.

Moved by Councillor L. Chisholm

Seconded by Councillor D. Roberts

That Council express a special ‘thank you’ to M. Amit for her efforts in the Town garnering First Place in the Communities-in-Bloom Circle Community of Gardeners category.” Motion carried.

- Public Properties and Streets Committee

Councillor S. Cameron advised that had nothing to report as this Committee meeting had been postponed.

- The Antigonish Movement – A Multi-Media Educational Project

Moved by Councillor S. Cameron
Seconded by Councillor L. Chisholm
“That Council donate \$1,000.00 for advertising in The Antigonish Movement Multi-Media Educational Project.” Motion carried.

- Club 60 Lease Renewal
Moved by Councillor L. Chisholm
Seconded by Councillor D. Roberts
“That Council renew the lease between the Corporation of the Town of Antigonish and Club 60 for the term of October 18, 2009, to October 18, 2019.” Motion carried.

- B. Doiron, Engineering Student
Moved by Deputy Mayor D. MacInnis
Seconded by Councillor D. Roberts
“That Council extend the term of employment of Engineering Student, B. Doiron, to October 30, 2009.” Motion carried.

CAO D. Kampen advised that the installation of water meters is now down to twenty-six (26) customers, with that number expected to be reduced to twelve (12) by months' end. Councillor S. Cameron advised of reports of some of the new water meters beginning to rust. Committee meeting.

Policy

- Personal Appearance and Conduct Policy (Final Approval)
Moved by Councillor S. Cameron
Seconded by Councillor D. Roberts
“That Council approve the revise Town of Antigonish Personal Appearance and Conduct Policy.” Motion carried.

In response to a query from Councillor J. MacPherson, CAO D. Kampen advised that each member of Council had already signed a Code of Conduct Policy and that she would provide him with a copy. Mayor C. Chisholm advised that this Policy was not directed specifically at a dress code but also staff conduct to ensure everyone is treated equally. CAO D. Kampen noted that she had requested staff to review the Policies prior to them coming back to Council for approval and had only received one comment which was related to staff wearing shorts.

- Position Classification Policy
Move by Deputy Mayor D. MacInnis
Seconded by Councillor L. Chisholm
“That Council approve the Town of Antigonish Position Classification Policy.” Motion carried with Councillor W. Cormier voting against.

CAO D. Kampen noted that it has been the practice that non-unionized staff receive the same wage/benefits increase as unionized employees. Councillor W. Cormier raised concern with the CAO being involved with union negotiations as she would benefit from such negotiations to which CAO D. Kampen responded that she carries out negotiations in the best interest of the Town.

- Poster and Signage Policy

Moved by Councillor S. Cameron

Seconded by Councillor W. Cormier

“That Council approve the Town of Antigonish Poster and Signage Policy.” Motion carried.

Brief discussion took place on repeat offenders putting posters on poles, with Councillor D. Roberts suggesting a letter be sent to the offenders. Mayor C. Chisholm noted that following approval of the policy, letters would be sent to lounges/bars to advise them of the Policy, and that enforcement would then follow.

- Travel Policy

Moved by Councillor S. Cameron

Seconded by Councillor L. Chisholm

“That Council approve the revised Town of Antigonish Travel Policy.” Motion carried.

Brief discussion took place on the amount allotted for meals while staff/Council attend business on behalf of the Town. Various scenarios were suggested with general agreement given to \$6.00 for Breakfast, \$12.00 for Lunch, and \$20.00 for Dinner, for a total daily amount of \$38.00.

- Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities Annual Spring Workshop and Fall Conference Policy

Moved by Deputy Mayor D. MacInnis

Seconded by Councillor L. Chisholm

“That Council approve the revised Town of Antigonish Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities Annual Spring Workshop and Fall Conference Policy.” Motion carried.

Brief discussion took place on this matter with Mayor C. Chisholm noting that any Councillor may attend the conferences as long as it is within the Budget.

- Repeal of Policies

Moved by Councillor S. Cameron

Seconded by Councillor L. Chisholm

“That Council approve the repeal of the following policies:

- Town of Antigonish Disclosure of Information & Confidentiality Policy
- Town of Antigonish Expense Claim Policy
- Town of Antigonish Notice of Meeting Policy
- Town of Antigonish Recommendation Guidelines for Policy on Cell Phone Use in Vehicles
- Town of Antigonish Smoking Cessation Policy
- Town of Antigonish Travel Policy – Elected Officials Only.” Motion carried.

- Animal Control By-law

Moved by Councillor J. MacPherson

Seconded by Councillor D. Roberts

“That Council give First Reading to amendments to the Town of Antigonish Animal Control By-law.” Motion carried.

Resolution

- Guarantee Resolution, R.K. Macdonald Nursing Home (Scotia Hall Pipes and New Boiler), \$101,500.

Moved by Councillor W. Cormier

Seconded by Deputy Mayor D. MacInnis

“That Council approve a Guarantee Resolution for the R.K. MacDonald Nursing Home in the amount of \$101,500. for Scotia Hall Pipes and New Boiler.” Motion carried.

In response to a query from Mayor C. Chisholm, Deputy Mayor D. MacInnis acknowledged that this matter had been brought to the R.K. MacDonald Nursing Home Board of Directors.

Other Business

There was no Other Business.

Adjournment

Moved by Councillor S. Cameron

Seconded by Councillor W. Cormier

“That the meeting be adjourned.” Motion carried.