

Council Minutes
September 21, 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

Also Present

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

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Deputy Mayor D. MacInnis

Seconded by Councillor D. Roberts

"That the Agenda be approved as circulated." Motion carried.

Public Hearing

- Development Agreement, 152 College Street, DA1.09 (Second Reading)

Mr. S. Day, Town Planner, reviewed the relevance of Development Agreements and noted that once approved they are Registered with the deed, which runs with the land. He further noted that Development Agreements are subject to a public hearing, erection of site signage identifying the proposed project, as well as advertisements to be placed in the newspaper.

With respect to this particular development, he noted that the application for the project was applied for before the repeal of the Town's flag lot development policy. He noted the property is nestled within the Town, on a large lot, and is being developed as a retirement home. He advised that the main issue in developing the property would be an issue of water/sewer services, and therefore servicing requirements will be dealt with by way of a separate agreement.

The site plan was then presented for viewing and the Town Planner reviewed aspects of the site, noting there are no openings in the building to meet flood fringe requirements. He then entertained questions regarding the development. The Town Planner responded to questions put forth by Mr. J. Monkman as to the time frames regarding flag lots and time limitations. Mr. S. Day further noted that future amendments to the Town's Planning Documents would include expiration time lines for applications. Responding to a question as to whether a second unit could be added, Mr. S. Day noted that a second unit could be added as an addition to the single family dwelling, and that although it would not be subject to a public hearing, it would have to be approved by Council.

Moved by Councillor W. Cormier

Seconded by Councillor J. MacPherson

“To approve Second Reading to Development Agreement DA1.09 between the Town of Antigonish and Ms. K. Chisholm, at 152 College Street, Antigonish.” Motion carried.

- Development Agreement, 66 Church Street, DA4.09 (Second Reading)

Mr. S. Day, Town Planner, noted that this property is zoned R1 (Residential First Density), and also features an overlay of CIP (Downtown Periphery), which, while maintaining the residential nature of the building, does permit some degree of commercial activity. As well, the building is also located in ‘Old Town’. He noted the Planning Advisory Committee had given consideration to the types of commercial activity that would be permitted specifically to this proposed project, and that commercial limitations are also part of the Development Agreement. He then reviewed the transition of the area which now features the National Philatelic Centre, and a medical centre along with residential developments. Mr. S. Day then presented a site plan for review and responded to questions from Council and delegates. In response to a question regarding the status of the development should the Development Agreement be discharged, Mr. S. Day noted that in the past, the Town has not discharged any development agreements.

Moved by Councillor W. Cormier

Seconded by Councillor L. Chisholm

“To approve Second Reading to Development Agreement DA4.09 between the Town of Antigonish and J. Kerr, at 66 Church Street, Antigonish.” Motion carried.

Presentations

- Ms. Mary Jess MacDonald, Chair, and Mr. Jack Beaton, Superintendent, Strait Regional School Board (SRSB)

Ms. M.J. MacDonald and Mr. J. Beaton were in attendance to apprise Council on the status of the schools/children within the Strait Regional School Board. Council was advised of the great concern with the declining population. Mr. J. Beaton spoke on the Minister’s Report to parents and noted it is a good document, and that students in grades three, six, nine and twelve are at or above standards. He further noted that the Dr. J.H. Gillis Regional School is unique as it is only one of ten high schools which recognizes the International Bacculata which administers the same exam worldwide. Furthermore, students from this school have performed well above average around the world.

Council was advised by Mr. J. Beaton that the Strait Regional School Board developed a strategic plan a year ago, that for the next five years will deal with enrollment, exodus of population (which equals a drop in funding). Other areas may be adjusted to maintain the standard of excellence which currently exists. Other issues identified include technology, enhancing partnerships, human resources, and communication. He noted that funding is and will continue to be an issue.

In response to a query from Councillor D. Roberts, Mr. J. Beaton advised that the Dr. J.H. Gillis High School is currently in Phase VII of renovations with most projects complete. In response to a question regarding out-migration, Mayor C. Chisholm was advised that positions have been cut for both regular and special education classes, for a total of approximately fifteen (15) positions this year. He further noted that there are usually additional requests for teaching assistants than those designated.

Mayor C. Chisholm thanked the delegation for their presentation.

- Mr. Frank Gallant, Executive Director, Antigonish Sustainability Development (ASD) Mr. F. Gallant was unable to attend and the presentation was made by Mr. B. Ives, Antigonish Sustainable Development Co-ordinator, in conjunction with Mr. J. Kenny.

Mr. J. Kenny requested Council aid in assisting the community in the ridding of pesticides, and noted his experiences in his position of postal worker.

Mr. B. Ives noted that his goal is to assist where he can in helping the community become sustainable including healthy lands. He noted that many people using pesticides/herbicides are not aware of alternatives. He suggested the Town look toward a 'Healthy Lawn – Healthy Children' initiative, and to be proactive and to educate. In response to a query from Deputy Mayor D. MacInnis, Mr. B. Ives indicated ASD is willing to play a role in such an initiative but it must be a community effort. Mr. B. Ives noted that moral support is what is needed, and that his role is that of an advocate. Councillor L. Chisholm noted that both she and Councillor J. MacPherson are members of the ASD Committee. Councillor L. Chisholm spoke on past efforts to implement a pesticide policy. Councillor W. Cormier noted that a number of constituents brought up this matter during his campaign.

Mr. K. Malholtra noted that approximately one year ago a lot of research had been carried out, and that perhaps the issue simply fell off the radar screen. He suggested the best start would be communication with the public and to determine where or at what stage the Pesticide Policy is at.

Mayor C. Chisholm thanked the delegates for their presentations and they left the meeting at 7:38 PM.

- Mr. Kuli Malhotra re Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) Mr. K. Malholtra was in attendance to update Council on the Town's ICSP. He noted that he has had some feedback from Service Nova Scotia Municipal Relations, and wondered whether the Town wanted to wait until the deadline to submit their final plan.

Mr. K. Malholtra advised Council that while consulting with community groups. many common themes of both the Town and County became obvious and questioned if the Town would be interested in a single Vision for both municipal units. He was advised that such a motion would be put forward later in the meeting.

Mr. K. Malholtra updated the Town on the County's ICSP efforts to date which may include an opportunity for the Town and County to cost-share in some of their respective goals.

The Town was advised by Mr. K. Malholtra that from 2010-2014, significant dollars will be available but beyond that the gas tax funding is unclear. In response to a query from Councillor D. Roberts regarding duplication in both (Town and County) plans and perhaps having a shared resource person to implement the plans, Mr. S. Day, Town Planner noted that there is much grant money available, he further noted he felt such a position could be self-funded. Responding to examples of commonalities within the Town and County's ICSPs, Mr. K. Malholtra referred to climate change adaption and preventing pollution. Mr. S. Day further suggested that policies related to flooding, map modeling, and planning policies are areas that the Town and County would have joint concerns.

Mayor C. Chisholm thanked Mr. Malholtra for his presentation and they left the meeting at 7:45 PM.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor L. Chisholm

Seconded by Deputy Mayor D. MacInnis

“That the Minutes of the E-mail Polls on June 12 and 17, 2009, and the Committee of the Whole (Closed) on July 6, 2009, and Special meeting on July 23, 2009, be approved as circulated.”

Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor D. Roberts

Seconded by Councillor L. Chisholm

“That the Minutes of the Closed and Special meetings held on August 4, 2009, E-mail Poll held on August 6, 2009, and Closed and Special meetings held on September 2, 2009, be approved as circulated.” Motion carried.

Business from the Minutes

There was no Business from the Minutes.

Correspondence

- FCM re Partnership Agreement with CGI Communications Inc. (re Website) – referred from Special Town Council Meeting of September 2, 2009.

This matter was Tabled until the next meeting.

- Antigonish Heritage Museum re Representation on the Board of Directors

Moved by Councillor D. Roberts

Seconded by Deputy Mayor D. MacInnis

“That CAO D. Kampen place an advertisement in the local paper seeking a representative for the Antigonish Heritage Museum Board of Directors.” Motion carried.

- Als Sons Cabs & Vans re Funding

Moved by Councillor S. Cameron

Seconded by Councillor L. Chisholm

“That CAO D. Kampen write Als Sons Cabs & Vans advising them that in 2010 the Town of Antigonish will give due consideration to their previous request for funding.” Motion carried.

- Mr. Clinton Ekdahl re Proclamation of May 29, 2010, as “Day of the Honey Bee”

Moved by Councillor D. Roberts

Seconded by Councillor W. Cormier

“That the Town of Antigonish proclaim May 29, 2010, as the “Day of the Honey Bee”.” Motion carried.

- Nova Scotia Department of Community Services re Representative on the Board of Directors of the Eastern Mainland Housing Authority

Moved by Councillor J. MacPherson

Seconded by Councillor S. Cameron

“That CAO D. Kampen place an advertisement in the local paper seeking a representative to serve on the Board of Directors of the Eastern Mainland Housing Authority.” Motion carried.

- Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of Canada re Proclamation of November 2009 as Crohn's and Colitis Awareness Month

Moved by Deputy Mayor D. MacInnis

Seconded by Councillor L. Chisholm

"That the Town of Antigonish proclaim November 2009 as Crohn's and Colitis Awareness Month." Motion carried.

- Canadian Heritage re 'Certificate of Merit' for Contribution to Canada Day and Celebrate Canada 2009 Activities

Moved by Councillor S. Cameron

Seconded by Councillor L. Chisholm

"To receive, for information, the 'Certificate of Merit' for Contribution to Canada Day and Celebrate Canada 2009 Activities." Motion carried.

- Communities Responding to Human Needs re Proclamation of November 15-22, 2009, as Restorative Justice Week 2009

Moved by Councillor D. Roberts

Seconded by Deputy Mayor D. MacInnis

"That the Town of Antigonish proclaim November 15-22, 2009, as Restorative Justice Week 2009." Motion carried.

Staff Reports

- Comptrollers Report (July and August)

Moved by Deputy Mayor D. MacInnis

Seconded by Councillor W. Cormier

"That the Comptrollers Reports for July and August 2009 be reviewed for information." Motion carried.

- Electric Utility Managers Report (July and August)

Moved by Councillor J. MacPherson

Seconded by Councillor D. Roberts

"That the Electric Utility Managers Reports for July and August 2000 be reviewed for information." Motion carried.

In response to a query from Councillor W. Cormier, he was advised that review of the Utility's assets has been sent for review and is compliant with the Utility and Review Board's request.

Councillor W. Cormier requested clarification on quotes being requested for a truck under Capital and was advised by CAO D. Kampen that the Utility and Review Board had been requested to approve to use of depreciation funds for this purchase.

- Engineer's Report (July and August)

Moved by Deputy Mayor D. MacInnis

Seconded by Councillor D. Roberts

"That the Engineer's Reports for July and August 2009 be reviewed for information." Motion carried.

It was noted that the issue of the right-of-way for Hillcrest Street can be removed from the Engineer's August 2009 Report as a letter is to be written to St. FX University by the Mayor regarding this matter. Further, the right-of-way request from The R.K. MacDonald Nursing

Home can be removed as this matter has been dealt with previously by the Committee of the Whole.

Councillor W. Cormier questioned when gravel cropping would be taking place in the Wright's River and suggested that due to the unknown time frame as to when the river is low enough to carry out the work, an application should be made at the start of the New Year with a date to be determined.

- Planning and Building Services Department Report (July and August)
Moved by Councillor W. Cormier
Seconded by Councillor J. MacPherson
"That the Planning and Building Services Department Reports for July and August 2009 be reviewed for information." Motion carried.

Committee Reports

- CAO Report
 - Tentative Collective Agreement Between International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 1928, and the Corporation of the Town of Antigonish, Electric Utility, April 1, 2009-March 31, 2013
Moved by Councillor J. MacPherson
Seconded by Councillor W. Cormier
"That Council ratify the Collective Agreement Between International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 1928, and the Corporation of the Town of Antigonish, Electric Utility, April 1, 2009-March 31, 2013." Motion carried.
 - Human Resources and Skills Development Canada re Request to Amend Next Collective Agreements Effective April 1, 2009, and Memorandum of Understanding between the IBEW and the Town of Antigonish
Moved by Councillor L. Chisholm
Seconded by Councillor W. Cormier
"That Council amend the Collective Agreements Effective April 1, 2009-March 31, 2013 to include a Memorandum of Understanding between the IBEW and the Town of Antigonish." Motion carried.
 - Accounts to be Written Off
Moved by Councillor D. Roberts
Seconded by Councillor J. MacPherson
"That Council approve the following accounts be written off:
 - Account #330817; \$17.58
 - Account #215098; \$91.41
 - Account #76768; \$533.12
 - Account #649360; \$139.11." Motion carried.
 - Pension Plan Increase for Non-union Staff
Moved by Councillor J. MacPherson
Seconded by Councillor W. Cormier
"That Council approve a .5% increase to pension plans of non-unionized staff effective April 1, 2009, to be matched by the Town of Antigonish and the employees." Motion carried.

- Registered Retirement Savings Plan Increase for CAO
Moved by Councillor L. Chisholm
Seconded by Councilor S. Cameron
“That Council approve a .5% increase to the registered retirement savings plan of the CAO, effective April 1, 2009, to be matched by the Town of Antigonish and the employee.” Motion carried.
 - Approval of Permanent Status for CAO D. Kampen
Moved by Councillor D. Roberts
Seconded by Deputy Mayor D. MacInnis
“That Council approve that CAO D. Kampen be given permanent status with the approved salary increment.” Motion carried.
 - Approval of the Town of Antigonish Integrated Sustainability Plan to 2013/14
Moved by Councillor W. Cormier
Seconded by Councillor S. Cameron
“That Council approve the Town of Antigonish Integrated Sustainability Plan as presented to 2013/14.” Motion carried.
 - Physically Active Children and Youth (PACY) Request
Moved by Councillor J. MacPherson
Seconded by Councillor S. Cameron
“That Council allow the Physically Active Children and Youth organization to utilize office space on the third floor of the Town Hall for the period of December 2009 to May 2010, subject to their own supply of internet and telephone service.” Motion carried.
 - Senior’s Snow Plowing Program
Moved by Councillor D. Roberts
Seconded by Councillor J. MacPherson
“That Council approve that CAO D. Kampen place an advertisement in the local paper seeking contract services for the 2009/10 Senior’s Snow Plowing Program.” Motion carried.
- Fire Committee
Moved by Councillor D. Roberts
Seconded by Deputy Mayor D. MacInnis
“To request CAO D. Kampen seek out information from other municipal units regarding Burning By-laws, such information to be provided to Mr. R. MacPherson, Fire Chief.” Motion carried.
- Recreation Committee
Deputy Mayor D. MacInnis noted he had nothing to report.
- Waste Management Committee
Councillor J. MacPherson advised Council that during Waste Reduction Week, October 18-24, 2009, a Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off will be held at the Antigonish Mall.
Moved by Councillor J. MacPherson
Seconded by Councillor D. Roberts

“That October 26, 27, and 28, 2009 be the designated dates for the Town of Antigonish Bulky Waste Collection with exceptions.” Motion carried.

- Planning Advisory Committee
Councillor Cormier indicated he had nothing to report.

- Beautification and Land Rehabilitation Committee
Moved by Councillor L. Chisholm
Seconded by Councillor D. Roberts
“To request CAO D. Kampen to file an application for park benches under the Senior’s Secretariat Program.” Motion carried.

Councillor L. Chisholm advised Council that she had received word that the Town is one of three finalists in the Scotts Community of Gardeners Award with the Communities in Bloom.

- Public Properties and Streets Committee
Moved by Councillor S. Cameron
Seconded by Councillor J. MacPherson
“To recommend to Council to give consideration to paving Martin Street during the 2010/2011 budget deliberations.” Motion carried.

Policy

- Beautification and Land Rehabilitation Policy
Moved by Councillor L. Chisholm
Seconded by Councillor J. MacPherson
“That Council approve the Beautification and Land Rehabilitation Policy, as amended.” Motion carried.

Other Business

There was no Other Business to discuss

Adjournment

Moved by Councillor J. MacPherson
Seconded by Councillor S. Cameron
“That the meeting be adjourned.” Motion carried.