

**Regular Town Council Minutes
April 15, 2019
Town Council Chambers**

Present

Mayor L Boucher
Deputy Mayor D. MacInnis
Councilor W. Cormier
Councilor M. Farrell
Councilor A. Murray
Councilor J. MacPherson
Councilor D. Roberts

Also Present

J. Lawrence, CAO
L. Basinger, Special Events Coordinator & EA
S. Scannell, Director of Community Events

Delegates

Media

Call to Order

Mayor L. Boucher called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

Approval of Agenda

"It was moved and Seconded to approve the Agenda with additions." Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

"It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Minutes of the March 18, 2019 In-Camera, Public Hearing and Regular Council meetings." Motion carried

Presentations

- Kristina Richards

Ms. K. Richards was in attendance and was recognized for her achievements in the Special Olympics World Games in Dubai. Mayor L. Boucher presented K. Richards with a medal and congratulated her for her hard work and achievements.

- Festive Antigonish (M. Fuller/A. Boyd)

Ms. A. Boyd gave a presentation sharing the upcoming programs for this year, along with outlining the growth the theatre has seen in the last few years. A. Boyd expressed thanks for the Town's support noting its importance, with the Town being their second largest financial supporter.

Council thanked A. Boyd for the work that Festival Antigonish does and recognized the upcoming season's lineup.

Councillor W. Cormier inquired if parking was an issue given the construction that is going on at the university. A. Boyd noted that parking is a real challenge going forward and noted that people have stopped coming due to the issue. They're brainstorming possible solutions to this.

- L'Arche Summer Camp (J. Richard)

J. Richard, the Finance Manager of L'Arche Summer Camp was present to speak about the summer programs that they offer for children with intellectual disabilities. It was noted they missed the deadline for the Community Grants Program but would like to be able to still submit their application.

J. Richard noted that the camp has been running for fifteen years and that their main costs are associated with staffing and day trips. They charge \$25 per day and do a lot of fundraising. Mayor L. Boucher explained that they missed the deadline for their application this year because the County and Town deadlines were not inline as they have been in the past.

"It was Moved and Seconded to accept the application from L'Arche." Motion carried.

- Antigonish Street Fair (S. Scannell)

L. Basinger spoke about the Art Fair's desire to take on the Antigonish Street Fair since the Downtown Business Association is no longer able to coordinate and host the event. It was noted the event provides a positive impact on our community during the summer, complimenting the Highland Games and supporting our goal of hosting more events that contribution to the atmosphere of the area. Additionally, the Art Fair already has the necessary tents and tables needed to host the event.

M. MacEachern from the Arts Fair was present and spoke about the budget. They've estimated \$7,000 for performers and advertising and feel confident that vendor fees will cover fifty percent of those expenses. Council was advised that the Arts Fair is not in a position to lose money on this event and are seeking the Town's support of \$3,500 to help the organization take it on.

Discussion began regarding the layout of the street fair, and it was noted that this year they plan to use a layout that will provide easy access to the shops on Main Street as well as the vendors and encouraging attendees to visit the Main Street shops too.

"It was Moved and Seconded to support the request." Motion carried.

Business from Minutes

There was no discussion regarding the minutes.

New Business

- Date for May Council Meeting

Mayor L. Boucher noted that the regular date for the next Council meeting is May 21, 2019 which is a holiday. Tuesday May 21st or Monday May 27th were suggested as alternate dates

Brief discussion took place.

"It was Moved and Seconded that the May meeting of Council be held on Monday, May 27th." Motion carried.

- RCMP Advisory Board Member

Mayor L. Boucher noted that an application had been received for the RCMP Advisory Board.

"It was Moved and Seconded to appoint Mr. V. Barnet to the RCMP Advisory Board Committee." Motion.

- Antigonish Arena – Name Change and Membership

J. Lawrence indicated that the Town requires a motion to change the name of the Arena from Antigonish Arena Commission to Antigonish Arena Association

"It was Moved and Seconded to change the name of the Antigonish Arena to the 'Antigonish Arena Association'." Motion carried.

- Low Income Property Tax Exemption Policy

Mayor L. Boucher noted that the matter of property tax exemption would be tabled until budget discussions, with CAO J. Lawrence indicating that he wants to be able to compare the Town's current exemption to other municipalities.

- Proclamation; Lyme Disease Awareness Month

Mayor L. Boucher introduced the Lyme Disease Awareness Month proclamation noting that as everyone is getting outside with the nice weather, it's important to protect yourself and pets from ticks to protect against Lyme disease, and the need to raise awareness.

"It was Moved and Seconded to declare May 2019 as Lyme Disease Awareness Month." Motion carried.

B. and N. Campbell were acknowledged for attending for the reading of the proclamation, which was read and signed by Mayor L. Boucher

Councillor A. Murray highlighted that the two bulbs over the front doors of Town Hall will be replaced with green lights for the month of May to start a conversation.

Discussion began regarding staff providing information sessions to inform the public about tick prevention and removal

- Proclamation; Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Mayor L. Boucher noted that April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

"It was Moved and Seconded to proclaim April 2019 as Sexual Awareness Month." Motion carried.

Mayor L. Boucher read and signed the proclamation supporting continued efforts to raise awareness and work toward prevention.

- Doctor recruitment

Councillor D. Roberts questioned whether anything had come from of the interviews with doctors thus far.

Mayor L. Boucher explained that when the doctors come for their visit they aren't necessarily offered a position. The visit is intended to show them around, see the hospital, do rounds, meet with hospital staff and council. They tend to be offered a position later.

Staff Reports

- CAO Report

Councillor D. Roberts inquired about Trunk 4 and the active transportation plan, with J. Lawrence noting the matter would be discussed during budget deliberations.

Councillor J. MacPherson inquired on the status of a meeting with high school staff regarding the litter.

CAO J. Lawrence confirmed the meeting took place and that they talked about maintenance being the school's responsibility

Councillor W. Cormier inquired about the paving budget.

CAO J. Lawrence noted that normally the Town would be earlier with their budget but a lot of time was consumed preparing for the Main/Hawthorne Streets intersection.

K. Proctor, P.Eng. noted that the Traffic Authority signed off on the plan today related to the work that is going to be done at the Hawthorne intersection. There will be a temporary crosswalk in place during construction. They are working on preparing notices, so people can see the layout. He further noted that May 6, 2019 is the starting date of construction with it finishing up by June 30, 2019.

Committee Reports

- Fire Committee

Councillor W. Cormier, speaking on behalf of the Fire Committee, recommended Council accept the budget that is being brought forth. He also noted that the committee is looking at a process for verifying private hydrants within the Town are in good working order. He noted this accounts for approximately one third of the hydrants in town.

- Waste Management

Councillor J. MacPherson spoke about the Waste Management Committee informing the public in the Casket of an app that provides pick up and waste sorting information. Mayor L. Boucher suggested that the app could be advertised on the Town's website.

Discussion continued regarding bulky waste pick up and items that could be included. It was noted that there would be a Town clean up on April 27th and bulky item collection April 29th and 30th.

- 55+ Games

Councillor D. Roberts noted that 55+ Games registration is well on its way and expressed her thanks to the team for their work on this event. It was noted that they've received another gold sponsor from the Antigonish Kinsmen for \$2500 and they're almost at the stage to approach businesses for their support.

- Accessibility Committee

Councillor D. MacInnis inquired about whether there will be an Accessibility Committee meeting on April 29 at 12pm. This was confirmed.

- Recreation Committee

Councillor M. Farrell reported that the Special Olympics Cairn now has permanent spot in the Cairn Park, that there will be an Antigonish skate park information session held on April 24, 2019 from 6-8pm at the library, noting they are exploring two different designs and are hoping for construction to start in June 2019.

Council was advised that the Wee Lads and Lassies program will begin May 11, 2019, ending with a track meet on June 22, 2019 and that they are currently rounding up staff for the program

Councillor M. Farrell reported that there is a cross-fit program currently being offered to grades 9-12 students at STFX. Registration for this is already full but there is a waitlisted

Mayor L. Boucher noted that the Planning and Strategy Committee's next meeting is May 15 at 5:15 where the Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-Law will be presented for first time and asks that council attend.

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm.