

**Regular Town Council Meeting
May 27, 2019
Town Council Chambers**

Present

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

Also Present

D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk

M. Barkhouse, Director of Human Resources
S. Scannell, Director of Community Development
K. Gorman, Communications
L. Basinger, Strategic Initiatives Coordinator

Media

Absent with Regret

CAO J. Lawrence
K. Proctor, P. Eng., Town Engineer

Call to Order

Mayor L. Boucher called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Approval of Agenda

"It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Agenda as presented." Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

"It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Minutes of the In Camera and Regular Council meetings of April 15, 2019, and In Camera and Special Council Meeting of May 10, 2019.

Presentations

- Rosalyn Sampson Re: Special Olympics (Toronto)
Mayor L. Boucher noted Ms. R. Sampson was not able to attend the meeting this evening and will reschedule.
- S. Spencer; Sport Nova Scotia – Sport Collaboration Program
Mayor L. Boucher called on Ms. S. Spencer, Community Sport Lead with Sport Nova Scotia who's focus is on enhancing Sport collaboration.

She extended gratitude to both Town and County Councils for embracing the Collaboration.

S. Spencer provided an in-depth overview of the Sport Collaboration Program noting that they have 10 community partners and are now looking to work toward children being into sports for their lifetime. She noted the Multisport Program in Antigonish typically sells out, and that they have been contacted by other organizations across the country due to its success.

Council was advised that the Multisport program is now at a maximum, however the ease of access to the Multisport program did not carry on after Multisport for the children in other sports.

S. Spencer noted the idea is to have the Antigonish Community as a Sport Hub, to provide more support for the coaches and children, and that they have established priority actions in participation, excellence, coaching & officiating and Organizational effectiveness.

S. Spencer reviewed the current community partners (local, provincial and national) noting they have approximately \$60,000 in funding at this time. She noted the hope is to roll out the program fully next year, but for now they are working with Spring/Summer and Fall/Winter programming.

S. Spencer reviewed various other aspects of the program, including staggered programming.

Council was advised that the current delivery system isn't working the way it should, and that at the community level Antigonish is probably the best in the province, and they want to continue with their success.

Mayor L. Boucher thanked Ms. S. Spencer for her presentation and called for any questions from Council.

S. Spencer confirmed seventeen partners, are involved, however not all are funding partners.

A brief question and answer session follows.

At 6:25 PM Mayor L. Boucher thanked S. Spencer for her presentation and she left the meeting at 6:25 PM.

Business from Minutes

- Doctor Recruitment

In response to a query from Councillor D. Roberts, Mayor L. Boucher noted that there are a couple of general practitioners committed to coming to the area.

New Business

- First Reading – Proposed Development Agreement; 52 Victoria Street

Councillors W. Cormier and J. MacPherson stated they would not be supporting the motion and spoke to their reasons.

Further discussion took place.

"It was Moved and Seconded that the proposed Development Agreement for 52 Victoria Street which is to include clarification of 5 ft. coniferous trees as part of the privacy requirements and adherence to the storm water management plan as indicated in the submission be given first reading." Motion carried with Councillors W. Cormier and J. MacPherson voting against the motion.

- Low Income Property Tax Reduction Policy (M. Barkhouse)

M. Barkhouse noted when comparing the Town's Low Income Property Tax Reduction Policy to other similar units that the Town of Antigonish's was the lowest.

She recommended that the financial threshold remain the same, but that the property tax reduction be increased to \$400, as well as to extend the deadline to June 28, 2019.

Council was advised that \$1,500 has been budgeted for this year, as there may be changes to the number of people that apply.

Councillor D. Roberts suggested that the Town needs to find a way to get the information on the Policy out to the public. It was generally agreed to work on additional attention to the program.

"It was Moved and Seconded to keep the financial threshold of the low income property tax reduction at \$25,000, increase the reduction to \$400, and extend the deadline to apply to June 28, 2019." Motion carried.

- 2019-20 budget Amendment

M. Barkhouse provided brief comment on an amendment required to the current budget.

"It was Moved and Seconded that an amendment be made to Resolution 2019-05-21A; Re: 2019-20 Budget that the Fire Levy be set at \$0.0340 per \$100. Of assessment.

Correspondence

It was noted correspondence was received from the Antigonish Rainbow Community to fly two (2) additional flags for the month of June, however, the Town does not have the ability to add two (2) additional flags.

Brief discussion took place.

"It was Moved and Seconded to advise the Antigonish Rainbow Community that the Town will raise one flag of their choice for the month of May." Motion carried.

Staff Reports

▮ CAO Report

Council provided comments from various sections of the CAO report.

Councillor A. Murray questioned why the RCMP could not commit to a walking patrol in the downtown.

Councillor J. MacPherson noted that a response from the RCMP was that they work out of their cars as an office and cannot react as fast as on foot or on bicycles.

Mayor L. Boucher noted that the point they make is that they will do it when they can, and that they do not have the resources for bicycles, She further noted the RCMP do have bike patrols during Homecoming, etc.

Councillor W. Cormier provided his comments on the matter.

Brief discussion took place on the Town importing electricity, with Councillor W. Cormier questioning whether the Town would likely to go to the UARB on the matter which M. Barkhouse confirmed.

Councillor J. MacPherson commended the Town Engineer for the work being carried out at the intersection of Main and Hawthorne Street.

Councillor D. Roberts noted the proprietor of the trailer park dropped by to commend the town on the project.

Following an update on a crosswalk at the former legion site by Deputy Clerk D. Wilson, comments were provided by Councillors A. Murray and J. MacPherson.

Mayor L. Boucher provided her thoughts on why it is being proposed that the crosswalk be removed and suggested letting the experts do their business.

The matter of liability was briefly discussed.

"It was Moved and Seconded to approve the CAO Report as presented." Motion carried.

- Library/Former Legion Crosswalk Removal (S. Scannell)
Previously reported.

Committee Reports

- Waste Management

Councillor J. MacPherson reported that 35 Nova Scotia Power engineers will be in town and looking to clean up both sides of the Brierly Brook on June 12, and that he hoped Council will join them.

Council was advised that the weekly collection of green carts begins June 3rd for the summer months.

- Beautification and Land Rehabilitation Committee

Councillor A. Murray advised that this year the Town will have five (5) power poles lit with décor in the Main Street Centre during the holiday season.

Police & License Committee

Councillor D. Roberts reported that the parking kiosk up and running on Sydney Street, taxi cabs have been licensed, some changes are taking place to RCMP staffing, and discussion on frosh week and homecoming are ongoing.

Council was advised that the 55+ Games Committee is meeting regular every Wednesday, that everything falling into place, and that they have received approximately \$33,000 in sponsorship commitment.

Councillor D. Roberts reported on the application under the Age Friendly Community Grant – that they did not receive funding and are not happy. She then expanded on the details.

Councillor W. Cormier questioned whether the subject of Uber has ever been discussed at the Police & License Committee. The Police & License Committee Chair agreed to add the matter to the next agenda.

- Accessibility Committee

Deputy Mayor D. MacInnis noted an accessibility meeting was held today, during which a draft tender for the accessible ramp was reviewed. He noted that even though draft was to code, a couple of ideas were put forth to improve the design to ensure appropriate access is in place. He further noted the benefit of having wheelchair bound members on the committee.

Deputy Mayor D. MacInnis confirmed there will be improved sidewalk along Victoria Street, and that staff have “accessible eyes” on all capital/infrastructure projects.

Councillor A. Murray brought forth the matter of no handicapped parking in front of the RK Nursing Home. Councillor J. MacPherson noted one was removed after paving. Discussion took place with the Mayor noting there are sufficient handicapped parking spots.

- Recreation

Councillor M. Farrell recapped the steps that took place that lead to the Challenger Ballfield now currently being constructed. She noted Turfmasters were brought in to design and complete the project. She encouraged everyone to listen for details on the grand opening.

Councillor M. Farrell further noted they are looking for volunteers for their Challengers program on Wednesday evenings, and thanked all of the partners involved with the project for their effort.

- Dr. JJ Carroll Awards

“It was Moved and Seconded to name Hillary Broussard Youth of the Year, and Gladys MacDougall Volunteer of the Year.” Motion carried.

Councillor D. Roberts took the opportunity to provide details on the volunteers backgrounds. Andrew commended the volunteer award for Gladys MacDougall, noting he attended the awards session with her.

- Planning Advisory Committee

Mayor L. Boucher noted that the Land Use By-law (LUB) and Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS) were presented in draft, then went to public for comment, which was well attended. She advised that WSP will now review and take into consideration the comments.

It was suggested that the placards used for the engage session be put out front or left up at the library.

With there being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.