

**Regular Town Council
February 22, 2022
Town Council Chambers**

Present

Mayor L. Boucher
Deputy Mayor W. Cormier
Councillor S. Cameron
Councillor M. Farrell
Councillor A. Murray
Councillor D. MacInnis
Councillor D. Roberts

Also Present

CAO J. Lawrence
D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk

M. Barkhouse, Human Resources
K. Gorman, Communications
K. Proctor, Director of Public Works
L. Roy, Strategic Initiatives
S. Scannell, Community Development

Media
Delegates

Call to Order

Mayor L. Boucher called the meeting to order at 6:09 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 Regular and In Camera Council Meetings Minutes of January 17th, January 24th Epoll Minutes, February 10th Special Council Minutes, and February 15th Emergency In Camera Minutes." Motion carried.

Brief discussion took place on the January 17, 2022 donation to the Guysborough Lifestyle Complex.

Presentations/Proclamations (Via Zoom)

- S. Feist/C. MacDonell; Town & County Kayaking

S. Feist and C. MacDonell provided an online PowerPoint presentation and details on a proposed kayaking program to be offered through the Antigonish Boat Club.

It was noted that the project would be available to local residents as well as schools, local groups and tourism.

S. Feist provided details on the proposed budget, and noted although the figures are still fluid, the ask from both Town and County Councils is \$7,000 each. He noted a funding application has been filed with the Town.

Mayor L. Boucher thanked the delegates, called for questions from Council and provided comment.

- Coady Local Campaign.

Mayor L. Boucher welcomed S. Stephenson and G. Cunningham to the meeting virtually and invited them to speak to Council on their proposal.

G. Cunningham shared details on the 'Coady Local Campaign'.

A brief history of the Coady Institute was provided, and it was noted that the Coady International Institute and the Extension Department are now working as one. Details were provided on other initiatives that also involve the Coady.

Council was advised that their goal is to raise one million dollars over a 5 -year period, that they have reached the half-way point and are seeking \$5,000 a year over the next 5 years from Town Council.

S. Stephenson addressed Council, noting he has travelled and seen first-hand the work that the Coady has done and that the work is ongoing locally, provincially, nationally, and internationally.

It was noted that they are receiving good local support and that the County has been supportive of their ask as well.

Mayor L. Boucher called for questions from Council and provided comment on Coady's direction and involvement in local issues.

She requested that the organization complete a grant application to accompany their presentation.

- M. MacDonald, Chair, Pioneer Cemetery Committee; Update

M. MacDonald was present to provide Council with an update on the Pioneer Cemetery Heritage Restoration project.

M. MacDonald provided a brief background on the restoration project. A site plan of the area to be restored was presented along with details on promotion, education and funding, It was noted that some local students will be pursuing some of the history of the site.

M. MacDonald provided details on their budget noting that fundraising is ongoing and difficult, and that the group will try to keep within budget noting much 'in-kind' work is being carried out. Details were provided on work to be carried out where funds allow.

Councillor A. Murray provided comment on the dedication of those involved with the project.

Mayor L. Boucher provided closing comment and thanked Mr. MacDonald for his presentation.

Business from Minutes

- Meeting with Merchants Re: Cigarette Butts (Update; Mayor)
Brief discussion took place and It was generally agreed Mayor L. Boucher and Councillor D. Roberts would get back to this matter early in the Spring.

New Business

- Curb, Gutter & Sidewalk Bylaw – Memorandum and Recommendation (M. Barkhouse)

M. Barkhouse took to the podium and provided Council with details from her memo and on repealing the Curb, Gutter & Sidewalk Bylaw, and responded to questions from Council.

Brief discussion took place.

“It was Moved and Seconded to give First Reading to amend the Repeals Bylaw to include the Curb, Gutter & Sidewalk Bylaw.” Motion carried.

- Financial Request - How Club (Councillor D. Roberts)
Councillor D. Roberts brought forth the matter of a financial request on behalf of the How Club.

Councillor S. Cameron declared a conflict of interest and left the meeting.

“It was Moved and Seconded to provide funding equal to the amount of property taxes for the upcoming fiscal year to the Knights of Columbus in consideration of tax account #02083035.
“Motion carried.

Councillor S. Cameron re-joined the meeting following discussion.

- Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) Recommendations
“It was Moved and Seconded that Town Council give First Reading and set a Public Hearing date to approve the proposed amendment to the Town of Antigonish Municipal Planning Strategy and Land-Use By-law to redesignate the portion of the lands designated Community Use of the property identified as PID 01228782, to the Higher Order Residential Neighbourhood designation. Also, that Council approves the rezoning of the same lands from the Open Space (OS) Zone to the Higher Order Residential Neighbourhood (RN-2) Zone as presented.

Three (3) omnibus amendments also received approval from the Planning Advisory Committee and are to be given First Reading and have a public hearing scheduled for March 21, 2022 at 6:00 PM in Town Council Chambers.” Motion carried.

Correspondence

- Eastern District Planning Commission – Staff Appointments
“It was Moved and Seconded to approve Eastern District Planning Commission staff appointments for the Town of Antigonish effective April 1, 2022, for Building Inspector(s), Development Officer(s), Fire Inspector(s) and Dangerous or Unsightly Premises as presented.”
Motion carried.

- NS Summer Fest; R. Mattie; Financial Request
Discussion took place on the correspondence from R. Mattie (NS Summer Fest) which outlined their request for financial assistance in the amount of \$2,500.00 for a ‘Songs & Stories’ series.

Following discussion, it was agreed to obtain additional clarification on the proposal prior to an e-poll to Council to consider the request.

- P. Julian, MP, Private Member's Bill C-229

Mayor L. Boucher referred to the correspondence from MP P. Julian and provided comment on the Bill he is seeking Council to support.

"It was Moved and Seconded that Council support Bill C-229 as proposed by MP P. Julian."
Motion carried.

1. Staff Reports

- CAO Report

CAO J. Lawrence provided comment on the efforts of Public Works staff, noting potholes are ever increasing. Thanks were extended to Public Works staff for their efforts.

- Committee Reports

- Mayor L Boucher read aloud a thank you to staff on behalf of Antigonish Affordable Housing.
- Councillor S. Cameron provided details on projects being offered through the Pictou Antigonish Regional Library.
- Councillor A. Murray provided details on a Dr. B. MacKenzie being hired to replace retiring curator J. Gillis at the Antigonish Heritage Museum.
- Councillor D. Roberts requested to have N. Haverkort and the 'Green Team' from St. Martha's Hospital recognized during the March 2022 regular meeting of Town Council.

Council was advised that funding for sorting stations is now available through the Municipal Approved Programs.

Councillor D. Roberts reported that three (3) groups have received funding as a result of litter pick-ups held in town.

Council was advised that an offer has been made to renew the recyclables contract with Pictou County Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) for a 2-year period. K. Proctor, P.Eng. provided comment on an increase in costs associated with the contract.

Councillor D. Roberts referred to a motion to have green bin weekly collection extended from May 10th to October 31st, however, following brief discussion it was generally agreed to have staff determine the cost of the proposed increased collection prior to a motion being put forth.

Brief discussion took place on waste collection charges for a boarding house which is currently under review.

Councillor D. Roberts advised that the Antigonish Community Transit Society has purchased a new 16 passenger bus, to be launched in March.

Council was advised on the possibility of some shelters being provided in various locations for public transit.

- Councillor D. MacInnis advised that an Accessibility meeting will be held this Thursday at 2:00 PM to begin reviewing the draft accessibility plan.
- Councillor M. Farrell reported on a meeting that the Eastern District Planning Commission (EDPC) and Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) held on February 14th via Zoom.
- Mayor L. Boucher noted meetings with ST FX are ongoing, that the student are currently on break, and that the University continues to be proactive.

“It was Moved and Seconded to accept the CAO Report as presented.” Motion carried.

At 7:45 PM the meeting was adjourned.