

**Public Hearing/Regular Council Meeting
March 21, 2022
Town Council Chambers**

Present

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

CAO J. Lawrence
D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk
M. Barkhouse, Corporate Services
K. Proctor, Public Works Supervisor
S. Scannell, Community Services
K. Gorman, Communications
L. Roy, Strategic Initiatives

Delegates
Media

Absent with Regret

Councillor W. Cormier

Call to Order

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

Approval of Agenda

“It was Moved and Seconded to approve the agenda as amended.” Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

“It was Moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular and In Camera Council Meetings Minutes of February 22, and EPoll Minutes (x 2) of March 10th, 2022, as presented.” Motion carried.

Public Hearing/By-Law Amendment(s)

Mayor L. Boucher noted that a Public Hearing would be taking place to consider and, if deemed advisable, approve amendments to the Town’s Land Use Bylaw (LUB) and Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS).

The Deputy Clerk confirmed that no submissions, written or oral had been received related to the public hearing.

Mayor L. Boucher called on Lee Ann Martin, Planner for the Eastern District Planning Commission to address proposed amendments.

- Amendments to Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-law
L.A. Martin provided details and a PowerPoint presentation on the proposed amendments – to rezone a portion of 156 College Street to the Higher Order Residential Neighbourhood Designation and the (RN-2) Higher Order Residential Neighbourhood Zone for the purpose of allowing potential residential development on the property. She advised that consideration must also include consideration of the statements of Provincial Interest. She then called for questions from Council or the gallery.

At the conclusion of the presentation Mayor L. Boucher called three times for comments from the gallery. No comments were received.

J. Bain, Director, EDPC, took to the podium and noted he would speak to three (3) omnibus amendments to the Land Use By-law and provided details specific to the following proposed amendments.

- Definition of Building Height,
- Number of Buildings permitted on a lot within the RN-2 Zone, and
- Conditional Removal of Floodproofing Restrictions on Accessory Buildings located within the Moderate Risk Floodplain (MF) Overlay Zone.

At the conclusion of the presentation Mayor L. Boucher called three time for comments from the gallery. No comments were received.

Mayor L. Boucher deemed the public hearing closed.

“It was Moved and Seconded to give 2nd and final reading to amend the Town Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-law to redesignate and rezone a portion of 156 College Street (PID 01228782) to the Higher Order Residential Neighbourhood Designation and the (RN-2) Higher Order Residential Neighbourhood Zone for the purpose of allowing potential residential development on the property.” Motion carried.

“It was Moved and Seconded to give 2nd and final reading to the following three omnibus amendments to the Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-law as presented in the February 14, 2022 Eastern District Planning Commission staff report:

1. Definition of Building Height,
2. Number of Buildings permitted on a lot within the RN-2 Zone, and
3. Conditional Removal of Floodproofing Restrictions on Accessory Buildings located within the Moderate Risk Floodplain (MF) Overlay Zone.” Motion carried.

Presentations/Proclamations

- N. Haverkort; Former Eastern Region Solid Waste Coordinator/Educator
Mayor L. Boucher called on N. Haverkort and Councillor D. Roberts provided comments on N. Haverkort’s role both for the Town and Eastern Region over the past 20 years

Councillor D. Roberts provided comment and thanks to N. Haverkort for her services over the years. She called on Council to come forward as a parting gift was presented and photos were taken.

- St. Martha's Regional Hospital 'Green Team' – Matter deferred

- Festival Antigonish – R. Fuller, A. Boyd and A. Pettipas

R. Fuller took to the podium and provided Council with a PowerPoint presentation and overview of the new initiatives of Festival Antigonish for the upcoming season. It was noted they that are moving to year-round offerings that will include concerts, film screenings, theatre for young audiences, workshops, diverse theatre, etc.

A PowerPoint presentation on their upcoming presentation of "The Hobbit" was provided.

Details on their financial ask were presented (\$17,500 each from the Town and County) along with their budget constraints.

A question-and-answer session followed. Mayor L. Boucher thanked the delegates for their presentation.

- Antigonish Highland Society 2022 Highland Games - J. MacDonald & C.A. MacKenzie
C.A. MacKenzie, J. MacDonald and D. Cochrane were in attendance and Council was provided with details and a short video on the upcoming Highland Games (July 3-10, 2022) noting the return of the Games following a two (2) year hiatus.

Details on their financial ask were provided and it was noted that they have completed an application for funding.

A question-and-answer session followed. Mayor L. Boucher thanked the delegates for their presentation.

- Positive Action for Keppoch – J. Chiasson

Mayor L. Boucher welcomed J. Chiasson who introduced Chair Board E. Smith, Manger J. Simpson and Board Member J. Fong.

Council was provided with details on the activities and growth of the Keppoch. He noted that to date, Keppoch has reached 38 of the Town's Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) Plan. A PowerPoint presentation detailed various activities that the Keppoch has been involved with, along with ongoing improvements being made to the facility.

Council was advised that \$15,000. Is being requested from both Town and County

A question-and-answer session followed. Mayor L. Boucher thanked the delegates for their presentation.

Business from Minutes

- EPoll Minutes of February 24, 2022, Re: Summer Fest

CAO J. Lawrence provided background information as to why the EPoll Minutes were brought forth for discussion.

"It was Moved and Seconded to accept the EPoll recommendation of February 24, 2022, as presented." Motion carried.

- Extension of Green Bin Collection (D. Roberts)

In concert with K. Proctor, Director of Public Works, CAO J. Lawrence noted that the cost for extending the green bin collection for approximately two months of the year would be \$10, and the increased tipping fee charges would increase the cost by an additional \$10.

Brief discussion took place.

Councillor D. Roberts noted she would bring the information provided back to the Solid Waste Committee for consideration.

New Business

- Date of April 2022 Council Meeting

“It was Moved and Seconded to move the April 2022, Council meeting to Tuesday, April 19th, 2022.” Motion carried.

- Sidewalk Café By-law (S. Scannell)

S. Scannell provided an overview of some changes being discussed related to the Sidewalk Café By-law, noting some issues have been identified that should be clarified to improve some of the mechanisms, as well as minor housekeeping matters and provisions related to sidewalk cafes. He noted the intent is to consult with the businesses for improved opportunities and noted he would be bringing the matter back to Council.

- Repeal Proof of Vaccination Policy (M. Barkhouse)

M. Barkhouse provided details on provincial restrictions being lifted, and that in consultation with the Town’s legal counsel staff are recommending that the current Proof of Vaccination Policy be repealed. Brief discussion took place.

“It was Moved and Seconded to repeal the Proof of Vaccination Policy.” Motion carried.

- Repeals By-law Re: Curb, Gutter & Sidewalk By-law – 2nd and Final Reading (M. Barkhouse)

M. Barkhouse took to the podium and provided details on repealing the Curb, Gutter and Sidewalk By-law.

“It was Moved and Seconded that Council give Second and Final reading to the Curb, Gutter & Sidewalk By-law.” Motion carried.

- **Town of Antigonish Property Tax Sale**

“It was Moved and Seconded to accept the recommendation of staff to move forward with a property tax sale with the exception of property AAN 0178546 until such time as legal advice is obtained.” Motion carried.

Correspondence

- RK MacDonald Nursing Home Foundation – Board Appointment

Mayor L. Boucher noted that the Foundation was seeking the appointment of a Town Representative on the Board.

“It was Moved and Seconded to approve the RK MacDonald Nursing Home Foundation Board appointment of Debbie Cameron-MacDonald as recommended.” Motion carried.

- J. Byard, Black Educators Association; Re: Monetary Donation
Brief discussion took place.

“It was Moved and Seconded that the Town support the Black Educators Association with a monetary donation matching last years’ donation from the Community Grants funds.” Motion carried.

- Taxicab Operating Costs

S. Scannell referred to correspondence received from taxicab owners on the current \$7.00 fee and their request to have the rate reviewed. He noted the rate is contained within the Taxicab By-law and that consideration would only be for fees within Town boundaries. Details were provided on provisions recently made by other municipal units. S. Scannell noted he met with the taxicab owners who were agreeable to a \$1.00 increase, however other matters such as structure of rates, consideration for deliveries, incremental costs for passengers, time of day, stops along the way, etc. should be given further consideration.

Council was advised that other groups of interest such as Poverty Coalition have been contacted for input. S. Scannell reviewed the recommendations from staff (included in his Report) noting support for a temporary rate increase of \$1.00 for an eight (8) week period while work the Police & License Committee considers a new rate and has an opportunity to further consult with stakeholders would be reasonable.

Councillors provided feedback on staffs’ recommendation. Discussion took place.

“It was Moved and Seconded to accept the Temporary Taxi Rate Adjustment Resolution as presented by staff for an eight-week period effective immediately.” Motion carried.

- Autism NS Flag Raising/Request

“It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Autism NS Flag Raising request as presented.” Motion carried.

Staff Reports

- CAO Report

CAO J. Lawrence responded to a query related to soil testing for the Town’s solar garden.

M. Barkhouse responded to a query on costs related to the upcoming budget, as they relate to the RCMP budget. CAO J. Lawrence noted that this is being looked at in conjunction with other services.

Brief discussion took place.

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

Committee Reports

- Fire/Library Committees

Councillor S. Cameron indicated he had nothing to report

- Community Enhancement Committee

Councillor A. Murray noted that in honour of Ukraine, the Community Enhancement Committee will plant blue and yellow flowers and noted Antigonish will be hosting the Provincial Special Olympics this summer which also feature the same colours. A diagram of the proposed planters/flowers was presented.

- Solid Waste Management Committee

Councillor D. Roberts noted she received word late this afternoon from S. Scannell that legal counsel would be present at a meeting in April to review various matters from the Waste By-law.

- Accessibility Committee

Councillor D. MacInnis noted that the Accessibility Committee had met and continues the review draft Accessibility Plan. He noted another meeting is scheduled for this week with the hope of finishing the review and have the plan finalized for April. He thanked S. Scannell for his work on this project.

- Eastern District Planning Commission (EDPC)

Councillor M. Farrell noted a meeting of the EDPC is scheduled for March 29th. She advised she will be on the steering committee for the upcoming Summer Special Olympics being held in Antigonish this 15-17th of July at St. FX.

Councillor M. Farrell provided comments on a Ukrainian family who moved to this area in December 2020, and the positive comments received about the community.

Council and staff stood for a moment of silence in recognition of the events taking place in Ukraine.

“It was Moved and Seconded to adjourn.” Motion carried.