

**Regular Council Meeting (as amended)
May 16, 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. Robert

Also Present

J. Lawrence, CAO
D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk

M. Barkhouse, Corporate Services
K. Gorman, Communications
K. Meisner, Facilities Supervisor
L. Roy, Strategic Initiatives
S. Scannell, Director, Community Development

Media
Delegates

Call to Order

Mayor L. Boucher called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and acknowledged those in attendance.

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 10, April 8 and May 11, 2022, Epolls, April 19, 2022 In Camera and Regular Council meetings, April 28, 2022 In Camera and Council meetings and April 29, 2022 Preliminary Budget Meeting, and a correction to the April 19, 2022 regular council minutes.” Motion carried.

Proclamations/Presentation

- Staff Recognition

Mayor L. Boucher congratulated CAO J. Lawrence for his 25 years of service to municipal government. She noted he had recently received his 25-year pin from the Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators (CAMA) - Council applauded his success.

- Lyme Awareness Month

Mayor L. Boucher read aloud and signed the Proclamation acknowledging May 2022 as Lyme Awareness Month.

Councillor A. Murray requested consensus from Council to adjust the Town Hall exterior lights to green for the month of May. Council was in general agreement.

- Victoria Order of Nurses (VON)

Mayor L. Boucher read aloud and signed the Proclamation acknowledging May 22-28, 2022, as VON week in Antigonish. It was noted the organization was seeking to have their flag flown at Chisholm Park.

Mayor L. Boucher also acknowledged International Pride Month and the Filipino Cultural Society of Nova Scotia, noting they were also seeking to have their flags flown at Chisholm Park and put the following motion forth:

“It was Moved and Seconded that flags be flown at Chisholm Park as follows: VON flag May 20-31, Filipino flag June 10-17 and the Pride flag June 1-10 and 17-30, 2022.” Motion carried.

It was noted that due to the number of requests to have flags flown that staff are doing their best to accommodate the requests.

Following discussion on the flying of flags, CAO J. Lawrence agreed to investigate protocol for the flying of flags.

- S. Armstrong – Exploring Consolidation

Mayor L. Boucher invited S. Armstrong to the podium as CAO J. Lawrence reminded her of the timeline for presentations.

S. Armstrong introduced herself and spoke on the issue of the Town and County exploring consolidation including the engagement process.

Mayor L. Boucher thanked S. Armstrong for her presentation. S. Armstrong agreed to email a copy of her presentation to the Town.

- C. Henderson – Consolidation Process

Mayor L. Boucher invited C. Henderson to the podium as CAO J. Lawrence reminded her of the timeline for presentations.

C. Henderson thanked Council for the opportunity to speak on the consolidation process that the Town and County are currently undergoing and provided her verbal presentation to Council.

Mayor L. Boucher thanked C. Henderson for her presentation.

C. Henderson agreed to forward her presentation to the Town.

- J. Mason – Antigonish Skateboard Demo Day

Mayor L. Boucher invited J. Mason to the podium. J. Mason provided details on two professional skateboarders from Vancouver and California who will be in Antigonish to provide a ‘demo day’ at the Antigonish All Wheels Skatepark on June 25, 2022

Council was provided with details of the event, sponsors, in-kind support and anticipated costs. J. Mason noted the total cost of the project is approximately \$13,000. and provided a

breakdown of expenditures. He noted that he was seeking \$1,500 from the Town and would be fundraising for an additional \$4,000 to cover outstanding costs.

Mayor L. Boucher thanked J. Mason for his presentation. A question-and-answer session followed. J. Mason agreed to complete an official Grant application.

Business from Minutes

There was no Business from the Minutes.

New Business

- Discussion on Plebiscite (D. Roberts)

D. Roberts spoke to the matter of a plebiscite noting she would be putting forth a motion.

“That Council commit to having a plebiscite with regard to the consolidation of the Town and County Municipalities.”

Discussion took place and following a 5-minute break the meeting resumed at 7:40 PM.

Discussion continued with each Councillor taking the opportunity to present their thoughts on the matter.

“That Council commit to having a plebiscite with regard to the consolidation of the Town and County Municipalities.” Motion defeated.

For the motion Councillors S. Cameron and D. Roberts. Against the motion: Mayor L. Boucher, Deputy Mayor W. Cormier and Councillors M. Farrell and A. Murray. With Councillor D. MacInnis abstaining from voting his vote was considered against the motion – For the motion two (2) – Against the motion five (5).

- RK MacDonald 2022 Amended Bylaws

CAO J. Lawrence advised that Council was provided with an updated version of the Bylaws for the RK MacDonald Nursing Home and that the Home was seeking the approval of the Bylaws from the Town.

In response to a comment from Council, CAO J. Lawrence provided comment.

“It was Moved and Seconded that Town Council approve the 2022 amended RK MacDonald Bylaws as presented.” Motion carried.

- Line Painting (D. Roberts)

In response to a query from Councillor D. Roberts, K. Meisner provided comment on line painting, noting contracts have been finalized and work should be beginning shortly. He further noted that the Town is looking to do some line painting utilizing summer students. It is anticipated that the work may start within the next couple of weeks, weather dependent.

- Re-Assignment of Committees

Mayor L. Boucher provided details on the re-assignment of Committees

- Councillor A. Murray to replace Councillor D. Roberts – Police & License Committee.
- Mayor L. Boucher to replace Councillor D. Roberts – RCMP Advisory Committee; and
- Councillor A. Murray appointed to the Pioneer Cemetery Committee

Correspondence

- RCMP Re: Highway Division Relocation

CAO J. Lawrence introduced correspondence from the RCMP noting it is anticipated that the Highway Division would be relocating to Pictou County. He noted that although the RCMP have taken the Town's concern into consideration, it is likely that the relocation will move forward.

CAO J. Lawrence provided responses to queries from Councillors A. Murray and M. Farrell.

CAO J. Lawrence noted that the Town and County would continue to lobby to keep the Highway Division here.

- Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission Re: Use of Council Chambers

Correspondence was received from C. Moulaison, Secretary of the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission seeking to use Town Council Chambers on May 31, 2022, from 6:30 until approximately 9:30 PM. The purpose would be to receive feedback from the public on proposed federal boundary changes. It was noted that to permit the use of Council Chambers a member of Council would be required to be in attendance.

Mayor L. Boucher volunteered to be in attendance as required.

Mayor L. Boucher provided comment on the proposed boundary changes.

"It was Moved and Seconded that the Town write a letter of support to maintain the current boundaries of Central Nova." Motion carried.

- Municipal Affairs & Housing – NSFM 12 Months' Notice Re: Possible Impacts to Municipalities

CAO J. Lawrence provided details outlined in the letter from Municipal Affairs on their 12 months' notice and possible changes and impacts to municipalities. He noted the notice was quite broad.

Brief discussion ensued with the CAO J. Lawrence providing comment.

- Indigenous Day; Request for Financial Assistance

Mayor L. Boucher noted a request had been received from Paq'Tnkek Mi'kmaq Nation (in conjunction with the Keppoch Board and St. FX University) for financial assistance to support Indigenous Day. Brief discussion took place and it was noted that the request is for \$2,500.

Following brief discussion, it was noted the two (2) financial requests from this evening would be circulated with the Community Grants, and details would be sought on funding from the County.

Staff Reports

- CAO Report

Councillor W. Cormier provided comment on a proposed 'work from home' policy being developed by staff.

CAO J. Lawrence noted that the policy would be coming back to Council for input.

Discussion took place on changes to the hours/days of work for staff.

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

Committee Reports

- **Police & License Committee**

Councillor W. Cormier noted staff have not had an opportunity to finalize details on the taxi rate structure and put forth the following motion:

“That Council extend the Temporary Taxi Fare Rate Adjustment Resolution passed on March 21, 2022, with a renewed expiration date of August 1, 2022, at which point Council will consider a new rate structure for the taxi industry.” Motion carried.

- **Fire Committee**

Councillor S. Cameron reported that the fire hall has had new doors installed and that they are fully operational.

- **Community Enhancement Committee**

Councillor A. Murray advised that the Community Enhancement Committee did not meet. He noted planters and benches will be strategically placed along Main Street and that the colors of the Ukraine are being used this year.

Councillor A. Murray advised that the headstones at the Pioneer Cemetery have been cleaned and that fundraising is ongoing.

Council was advised that the new Heritage Museum Curator is working out very well.

- **Solid Waste Management Committee**

Councillor D. Roberts reported that the Waste Committee would be meeting this Wednesday and that the Waste Coordinator will provide short overview of pertinent information. She agreed to distribute the information from the meeting.

- **Accessibility Advisory Committee**

Councillor D. MacInnis noted that the Accessibility draft plan has been received and that a meeting is being scheduled for near future.

- **Planning Advisory Committee (PAC)**

Councillor M. Farrell advised that the PAC meeting has been delayed to Monday May 30th at 5:00 PM.

Councillor M. Farrell shared comments from the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM) Conference she and Councillor A. Murray recently attended, and noted many comments were received on the current consolidation process. Councillor M. Farrell also provided comment on her attendance at the Town’s caucus meeting.

Councillor A. Murray provided comment on a diversity panel he was part of during the NSFM Conference.

Mayor L. Boucher provided positive comment on the Peace by Chocolate movie screening noting it was very professionally done, as well as comments on the 4-H 100th anniversary celebration.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 PM.