

**Regular Council Meeting
June 20, 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, Director, Community Development
K. Proctor, Director of Public Works
L. Roy, Strategic Initiatives
S. Scannell,

Media
Delegates

Call to Order

Mayor L. Boucher called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM and acknowledged those in attendance.

Approval of Agenda

“It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Agenda with additions.” Motion carried
Business

Approval of Minutes

“It was Moved and Seconded to approve the minutes of the May 16th, 2022, Regular Council Minutes (with a correction), May 11th and 18th, 2022 Epoll Minutes and June 1st, 2022 Budget Meeting Minutes.” Motion carried.

Proclamations/Presentations/Flag Raising

- Flag Protocol

CAO J. Lawrence noted that protocol does not look favorably on having an additional flag fly with the Canadian or Provincial flag.

It was generally agreed to determine if the Ukranian flag can be flown from the Town Hall, and if not, that the Ukranian flag would be put up when another flag is not flying at Chisholm Park.

Councillor W. Cormier suggested flags be hung on Town hall flagpole or building.

- FCM Green Municipal Fund Re: Grant Application – Green Energy Retrofit Feasibility Study (L. Roy)

L. Roy provided Council with a PowerPoint presentation on a Deep Energy Retrofit Feasibility Study as it relates to a grant application that is being recommended by staff.

“It was Moved and Seconded that Council approve the submission by staff of an application for a feasibility study through the FCM Green Municipal Fund.” Motion carried.

- R. Mattie, Nova Scotia Summerfest

R. Mattie was in attendance and provided Council with a PowerPoint presentation outlining details of the upcoming Nova Scotia Summerfest event taking place this August at Columbus Field.

R. Mattie noted that although an amended event was held last year due to Covid, Summerfest was held (as a Kitchen Party tour) and details were provided. It was noted that the event was nominated for an award.

Details on partners and the CTV commercial for Antigonish Summerfest and advertising and marketing were provided.

Details were provided on a partnership with Bell Media which was renewed following the release of the Crystal Cliffs TV Series.

R. Mattie noted a grant application was filed with the Town for a community grant.

Mayor L. Boucher called for questions from Council.

- Antigonish Highland Society – Festival/Celebration Flag – July 3-10, 2022

“It was Moved and Seconded to approve the flag raising and lamp post banner hanging as requested by the Antigonish Highland Society.” Motion carried.

Business from Minutes

- Donation to Knights of Columbus (M. Barkhouse)

M. Barkhouse provided Council with updated details on an outstanding tax account.

At 6:37 PM S. Cameron excused himself

“It was Moved and Seconded that Council provide the Knights of Columbus with an \$862.47 grant from Council’s discretionary funds.” Motion carried.

At 6:38 M Councillor S. Cameron re-joined the meeting.

- Timeline for Consolidation

Mayor L. Boucher noted that delays due to Covid have caused timelines for the consolidation process to be amended. It was noted it would now be at least mid to late July before the Consultants report is received, and that once Council has reviewed the document it will go out to the community.

CAO J. Lawrence noted Council is still awaiting a response on the matter of RCMP funding.

In response to a query from Deputy Mayor W. Cormier, CAO J. Lawrence noted that the Steering Committee would likely prepare a response to the Consultant’s report

New Business

- Solid Waste Bylaw (D. Roberts) & First Reading to Repeal and Replace Waste Management Bylaw

CAO J. Lawrence noted that the Report this evening was drafted by S. Scannell, and that the document, as presented, clears up a number of issues including dealing with fines and Lodging Homes.

“It was Moved and Seconded to give first reading to repealing the existing and adopting and the Solid Waste Management Bylaw as presented by staff.” Motion carried.

Councillor D. Roberts thanked various staff for their assistance and help over the past couple of years in having this document renewed.

- Eastern District Planning Commission (EDPC); Policy to Amend Municipal User Fees Policy
CAO J. Lawrence noted that there has not been an increase in the building permit fees since 2012 and that the recommendation has been approved by the EDPC Board.

“It was Moved and Seconded that Council adopt the amended Municipal User Fees Policy as recommend Eastern District Planning Commission staff.” Motion carried.

- Bronze Statue (A. Murray)

Councillor A. Murray spoke to the Town owned bronzed sculpture currently located in the foyer of the Town Hall and noted he had approached the Pioneer Cemetery Committee to see if they would be interested in incorporating the sculpture into the Pioneer Cemetery project.

Brief discussion took place.

“It was Moved and Seconded that the Town maintain ownership and permit the Pioneer Sculpture to be relocated to the site of the Pioneer Cemetery.” Motion carried.

- Guardrail/Fence on St. Ninian Street (A. Murray)

Councillor A. Murray presented Council with a proposal to paint a guardrail/fence along St. Ninian Street the colours of the Pride flag by the Dr. J.H. Gillis Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) at a cost of approximately \$400.00

CAO J. Lawrence spoke to the matter noting most communities have some way of recognizing the pride community, and further noted many are moving away from painting sidewalks due to safety concerns.

“It was Moved and Seconded that Council approve the cost of painting the guardrail/fence on St. Ninian Street the colours of the pride flag with funds from the Town’s maintenance budget and that it be maintained through the Town’s Community Enhancement Committee.” Motion carried.

- Line Painting (D. Roberts)

Councillor D. Roberts noted she and other members of the community were please to see the onset of line painting in the Town. She noted there is more to do but is appreciative of what has been done to date.

K. Proctor spoke briefly to the line painting.

- Butterfly Way (Mayor L. Boucher)

Mayor L. Boucher spoke to correspondence received from T. Fraser who is taking over the project (which began at Columbus Field last year). T. Fraser is seeking \$200 per garden for 30 gardens for a total of \$6,000.

It was generally agreed to determine how much was granted last year to this event and then discuss the matter further with T. Fraser and consult with Councillor A. Murray on the areas being considered and if they are feasible.

Mayor L. Boucher agreed to distribute the correspondence.

- NSFM (Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities) Survey

Mayor L. Boucher noted an NSFM survey has been sent out regarding service exchanges between municipal units and the province and amendments to the Municipal Government Act (MGA). She agreed to circulate discussion to date and requested Council add their thoughts.

Correspondence

- S. Stubbs, MP Re: Federal Funding for Rural Municipalities

CAO J. Lawrence noted that the correspondence speaks to the lack of financial support to municipal units in various areas.

It was noted S. Stubbs is requesting municipalities identify the three subject areas that have the most impact to municipal units.

K. Gorman reviewed the subject areas outlined in the correspondence and brief discussion took place.

It was suggested and generally agreed to reach out to S. Fraser's office for comment prior to providing a response.

- Antigonish Heritage Museum Re: Built Heritage

Mayor L. Boucher read aloud correspondence from the Antigonish Heritage Committee concerning the loss of built heritage within the Town.

Councillor A. Murray spoke to the possibility of strengthening policy around protecting our built heritage. Brief discussion took place with CAO J. Lawrence noting that EDPC (Eastern District Planning Commission) looks after built heritage so far as building permits are concerned.

Councillor A. Murray suggested taking the matter back to the Heritage Curator to try to determine what might be working in other areas. Deputy Mayor W. Cormier spoke to an awareness program that might be of assistance to highlight heritage buildings in the area.

Councillor A. Murray agreed to discuss the matter further with the Museum Curator.

- Antigonish Highland Dance Assoc. (AHDA); Request for Financial Assistance

Mayor L. Boucher spoke to the request noting policy permits \$200 to the organization to assist an individual.

“It was Moved and Seconded to provide \$200 to the AHDA from Council’s discretionary funds.”
Motion carried.

Staff Reports

- CAO Report

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

Councillor A. Murray raised concern with the number of RCMP staff currently off work. Brief discussion took place.

K. Gorman provided comment on the RCMP compliment from a meeting she recently attended.

Committee Reports

- Police & License Committee

Deputy Mayor W. Cormier stated he had nothing to report.

- Fire Committee

Councillor S. Cameron stated he had nothing to report.

- Community Enhancement Committee

Councillor A. Murray stated that although the Community Enhancement Committee did not meet the hanging baskets have been placed on bridges and other locations and that bench locations have been identified. He further noted new recycling bins are to be installed soon.

He further noted a Platinum Jubilee Tea was held at the Museum last week and that the remaining grave markers are to be installed at the Pioneer Cemetery.

- Waste Management Committee

Councillor D. Roberts advised there was not a quorum for the Waste meetings held in April, May, or June. She noted that she and Mayor Boucher are to get together regarding cigarette butts, and that a litter pick up is scheduled for next week, through (Eastern Region Solid Waste Management) ERSWM.

Council was advised that GFL is purchasing the Guysborough landfill. It was suggested to request GFL to make presentation on their future plans. Mayor L. Boucher agreed to invite GFL and the Waste Management Committee to the September meeting.

- Accessibility Committee

Councillor D. MacInnis advised the Accessibility Committee had met and will hold off on community engagement to give the new Director of Community Development time to get caught up.

It was noted that there is a Community Navigator meeting this Thursday at 4:00 PM.

- Planning Advisory Committee (PAC)

Councillor M. Farrell noted that the PAC will meet next week.

- Mayor L. Boucher updated Council on a meeting held with St.FX staff and noted that the new Academic Vice-President (AVP) attended the meeting and wants to be involved.

It was noted that Town Council will meet in July but not August.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 PM.