

**Regular Council Meeting  
July 18, 2022  
Town Council Chambers & Via Zoom**

**Present**

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

**Also Present**

D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk, Acting CAO  
M. Barkhouse, Director, Corporate Services  
K. Gorman, Director, Community Development

K. Proctor, Director of Public Works  
L. Roy, Strategic Initiatives

Media  
Delegates

**Absent with Regret**

CAO J. Lawrence

**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 with additions." Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes**

"It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Minutes of the June 20th, 2022, Regular Council Minutes, June 15 and 27<sup>th</sup> and July 7th, 2022, Epoll Minutes." Motion carried.

**Proclamations/Presentations/Flag Raising**

- 2022/23 Water Utility Operating & Capital Budget (M. Barkhouse)  
M. Barkhouse took to the podium and provided a PowerPoint presentation on the 2022/23 Water Utility Budget noting an operating income of \$164,855 and net non-operating income of \$164,378.

Council was provided highlights on various aspects of the budget including Revenue Increase, Transmission and Distribution, Public Works Equipment Chargeback, Supervision Admin & Engineering Chargeback and Water Utility Cost of Service Study.

Details were provided on the Water Utility Capital including the Court Street watermain for a total Water Utility capital budget of \$451,000.

Responses were provided by M. Barkhouse and K. Proctor, P.Eng. to various items on the presentation.

“It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Water Utility Operating and Capital budget as presented.” Motion carried.

- Provincial Transition Funding

“It was Moved and Seconded that senior staff continue discussions with the Department of Municipal Affairs on transition and post-transition funding related to consolidation.” Motion carried.

- 216 Hawthorne Street Utility Pole

Councillor D. Roberts stated her respect to staff of their input on the matter, noting it has been 2 years since the matter has been brought forth and that NS Power stated they would remove the pole but that has not happened.

It was noted that the pole does not belong to the Town nor does the adjacent pole have any attachment to the Town’s Electric Utility.

K. Proctor responded noting that NS Power would remove the pole when time permits, stating staff can continue to ask, but the Town has no ability to influence their timelines.

- Lighting at Lower Hawthorne Street

Councillor D. Roberts provided her comment on the matter, with K. Proctor responding on the appropriate level of lighting. He noted staff have taken lighting measurements.

The Acting CAO was requested to direct staff to further investigate the matter.

Councillor D. Roberts was requested to forward her notes to the Acting CAO.

## **Business from Minutes**

### **New Business**

- Art Larks Encore!

Mayor L. Boucher advised Council she had received the Art Larks Encore! poster along with correspondence and encouraged Council to spread the word to encourage people to become involved.

She noted that further, she received an email request from AHA requesting \$2,000. in financial support. Mayor L. Boucher agreed to reach out to the County to determine what funding they may or will be providing.

It is anticipated an epoll will follow.

At 6:47 PM Councillor S. Cameron excused himself from the meeting.

### **Correspondence**

- St. James United Church Social Justice Committee; Re: Guaranteed Livable Basic Income for Canadians

Mayor L. Boucher sought comment from Council on the correspondence from the St. James United Church Social Justice Committee on the matter of a living wage.

Following discussion Mayor L. Boucher agreed to circulate additional information and requested Council seek out additional information. She noted that all three political parties support the matter to some extent.

The matter was Tabled.

At 6:53 PM Councillor S. Cameron rejoined the meeting.

- Canadian Association for Community Living (CACL); Request for Financial Assistance  
Mayor L. Boucher acknowledged the correspondence from the CACL seeking financial assistance. She noted that in the past it had been the practice of Council to provide CACL with a grant equal to the difference between the CACL's commercial tax bill and current residential tax rate

Brief discussion took place and the following motion was put forth:

"It was Moved and Seconded that Council provide the CACL with a grant from Council's discretionary funds equal to the difference between their current tax bill and the current residential tax rate in the amount of \$5465.92." Motion carried.

It was further suggested that a letter be directed to the Chair of the Board requesting future requests in this regard be made through the Town's Community Grants program, to which Council was in general agreement.

- North Nova Society for the Protection of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) Request for Financial Assistance

Mayor L. Boucher noted she had met with Mr. Steve Smith to discuss financial assistance for the North Nova SPCA, and further noted the amount provided to the organization by the County of Antigonish.

M. Barkhouse noted that should Council wish to make a commitment beyond the mandate of the current Council it would have to be recognized financially in the current year and be spread over the set number of years.

Councillor W. Cormier suggested reaching out the local Cat Rescue Maritimes (CA-R-MA) and the Town's Animal control to determine if they would support the request.

Mayor L. Boucher agreed to seek additional information from Canine Animal Rescue, the SPCA, CARMA and the Town's animal control officer.

## **1. Staff Reports**

- CAO Report

Following brief discussion, it was "Moved and Seconded to accept the CAO report as presented." Motion carried.

## **2. Committee Reports**

- Fire Committee

Deputy Mayor W. Cormier noted two (2) speed signs have been ordered.

- Police & License/Library Committees

Councillor S. Cameron noted The Library has completed their Accessibility Report, Council was dire

- Community Enhancement/Pioneer Cemetery Committees

Councillor A. Murray stated the flowers are out, self-watering planters are working well. Bridge baskets and hanging baskets have had a few issues, hopefully worked out and concrete benches/recycling receptacles are being put out.

Councillor A. Murray extended his thanks to those involved for a very successful Canada Day.

Councillor A. Murray noted the painting of the 'pride' guardrail/fence has been very well received.

- Waste Management Committee

Councillor D. Roberts noted Waste meetings will resume in September. Waste clean-ups have been postponed, now waiting for a date for confirmation.

Discussion with businesses on the matter of cigarette butts to be rescheduled.

- Accessibility Committee

Councillor D. MacInnis stated he had nothing to report.

- Eastern District Planning Commission (EDPC)

Councillor M. Farrell noted PAC met, second stage of public hearing for a development, annual report available if any of Council wishes a copy. She provided comment on the amount of development that took place during Covid and spoke briefly to the value of building permits.

It was noted that the Special Olympics were held this weekend, very successful event, and extended thanks to staff and volunteers involved.

Councillor M. Farrell thanked staff for ensuring

The meeting was adjourned at 7:24 PM.