

Regular Council Meeting
October 17, 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

CAO J. Lawrence
D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk

M. Barkhouse, Corporate Services
S. Long, Communications
K. MacInnis, Community Development
L. Roy, Strategic Initiatives
K. Proctor, P.Eng., Director of Public Works

Media
Delegates

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 an addition." Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

"It was Moved and Seconded that Council approve the Regular Council Minutes of July 18, 2022, Public Hearing and Special Council Minutes of August 18, 2022, In Camera and Special Council Minutes of August 29th, 2022, Epoll Minutes of July 27th and 28th, August 9th, 10th and 30th, September 14th and October 6, 2022." Motion carried.

Proclamations/Presentations/Flag Raising

- Right to Know Proclamation
Removed from Agenda.

- St. FX University Award of Excellence

Mayor L. Boucher noted she and Warden McCarron were each presented with a St. FX University Award of Excellence noting it was received for the Town from St. FX for the collective efforts and work done by the University, Town and County Council and citizens during Covid.

It was noted the painting presented was done by a local artist.

- Antigonish Women's Resources (AWRC); Appeal Community Grant Application Information was previously distributed, and W. Sandler provided Council with a PowerPoint presentation with details on their appeal of the decision by Council to deny their Community Grant application.

A question-and-answer session followed, with W. Sandler responding to Council.

- Keep Well Antigonish, Appeal Community Grant Application Information was previously distributed, and A. Bigelow took to the podium and provided details regarding Council's decision to deny Keep Well Antigonish's Community Grant application.

Sister M. McMann spoke briefly about Keep Well Antigonish as a participant in the chair yoga program.

M. Power, instructor, provided comment on the positive benefits of chair yoga.

A question-and-answer session followed.

- J. Mason Re: Request for Financial Assistance; Skatepark Demo Day Information was distributed and J. Mason took to the podium to provide Council with details on his proposed 'Demo Day' series for the local All Wheels Skatepark.

Council provided comment on the local skatepark and a question-and-answer session followed. J. Mason was advised to submit his request to the Community Grants program.

Business from Minutes

- Paradis Investments Limited – 2nd Reading Proposed Development at 23 Main Street J. Bain, Director, EDPC was in attendance for the 2nd and final reading and to approve to an enter into a development agreement with Paradis Investments.

Councillor M. Farrell put forth the following motion:

“That Town Council give Second Reading and approve entering into a development agreement to allow for the development of a mixed-use retail commercial and professional office building at 23 Main Street for properties PID# 01229590, 01229608, 01229616, 1229624, 01295336, 01295344, 10081347 and 10135291.” Motion carried.

- Antigonish Heritage Museum Re: Built Heritage (Councillor A. Murray) - Tabled
- Art Larks Encore!
Mayor L. Boucher noted that this request and others on the Agenda including the Jazz Fest and Summer Fest requests be postponed to allow Council to further discuss and consider financial requests. There was general consensus from Council.
- St. James United Church Social Justice Committee; Re: Guaranteed Livable Basic Income for Canadians
Councillor S. Cameron declared a conflict of interest at 6:40 PM.

Deputy Mayor W. Cormier provided his comments from articles he had read and spoke to a basic minimum wage and stated it is a matter for a broader conversation.

Brief discussion took place with various Councillors providing comment.

“It was Moved and Seconded that a letter be sent to the Federal government asking that they look at the matter of a livable wage.” Motion carried.

Councillor S. Cameron re-joined the meeting.

New Business

Correspondence

- C. MacKenzie; Request for Financial Assistance

“That Council approve \$200.00 each for financial assistance to C. MacKenzie and J. Ross as participants in national athletic programs.” Motion carried.

- J. Ross; Request for Financial Assistance
Previously discussed.

- G. Levangie Re Painted Guardrail

Mayor L. Boucher approved Councillor A. Murray’s request to read aloud the letter from G. Levangie. Councillor A. Murray read aloud the letter and provided comment.

Councillor D. Roberts provided comment that a response letter be directed to G. Levangie.

“That Council reinforce their decision to assist in having the guardrail on St. Ninian Street painted rainbow colours.” Motion carried.

- Antigonish Jazz Festival; Request for Assistance – Tabled
- NS Summer Fest; Request for Assistance - Tabled

Staff Reports

- CAO Report
 - Policy – Top-Up during Pregnancy/Parental Leave Policy (M. Barkhouse)
M. Barkhouse provided an overview of the proposed Policy on a Top-up during Pregnancy/Parental Leave.

Brief discussion took place.

“It was Moved and Seconded that Council approve the Top-up during Pregnancy/Parental Leave Policy as presented by staff.” Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Mayor L. Boucher noted a debriefing on Hurricane Fiona would take place with Council within the next couple of weeks.

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

- Police & License Committee

Deputy Mayor W. Cormier put forth the following motion:

“That Town Council accept the Police & License recommendation to adopt the proposed amendment to Section 20 of the Town’s Taxi-Cab Bylaw by amending the Town’s Municipal User Fees Policy to include the updated fares as presented for service within the Town of Antigonish boundaries.” Motion carried.

Deputy Mayor provided details on the scale to be used for taxi service, including stops en-route, and responded to questions from Council.

- Eastern Regional Library/RCMP Advisory Board

Councillor S. Cameron noted the RCMP Advisory Board had met, with the Staff Sergeant, K. Hillier being introduced. He further noted recently purchased speed signs have now been installed and are gathering data.

Councillor S. Cameron requested Council consider writing a letter to People’s Place Library Staff for their efforts following the hurricane. Brief discussion took place.

- Community Enhancement Committee

Councillor A. Murray noted the Community Enhancement Committee had met and provided a brief overview from the meeting.

Councillor M. Farrell commended O. Landry for her 20 years commitment to the Community Enhancement Committee.

- Solid Waste Management

Councillor D. Roberts noted that a waste clean-up was held in the downtown this past Saturday and provided details on the event.

CAO J. Lawrence noted approximately 100 University students also came out on Sunday for a cleanup.

- Accessibility Committee

Councillor D. MacInnis noted that the consultants - Upland – had held an open House on the draft Accessibility Plan on September 13th and that additional comments will be received until September 30th, after which time Upland will meet with K. MacInnis to provide an update.

- Planning Advisory Committee

Councillor M. Farrell stated she was pleased to see the motion approved for 23 Main Street for a development agreement. She expressed her appreciation to those who reached out during the recent loss of her mother.

Mayor L. Boucher noted that consolidation reports from G. Horne had been distributed and were available on the Town’s website as well.

Mayor L. Boucher noted that time has come to wrap up discussion on the What We Heard Report and consolidation, and that tomorrow would be the last day to submit feedback on the

What We Heard Report. She further noted that a meeting would be held this Thursday, October 20th at 7:30 PM in Town Council Chambers for the purpose of a vote on consolidation.

Mayor L. Boucher confirmed with Councillor D. MacInnis that a synopsis from the What We Heard Report would be distributed to Council.

Mayor L. Boucher responded to Councillor D. Roberts comments on the timeline.

CAO J. Lawrence provided comment on the What We Heard Report.

In response to Councillor D. Roberts, Mayor L. Boucher noted a motion has not yet been put forth regarding consolidation.

With there being no further business the meeting was adjourned.