

**Regular Council Meeting
February 21, 2023
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

J. Lawrence, CAO
D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk
M. Barkhouse, Director of Corporate Services
S. Long, Communications Officer
K. MacInnis, Director of Community Development
K. Proctor, P. Eng., Director of Public Works
L. Roy, Strategic Initiatives

Delegates
Media

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 as presented.” Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

“It was Moved and Seconded to approve the In Camera and Regular Minutes of January 16, 2023, and Special In Camera Minutes of February 9, 2023.” Motion carried.

Proclamations/Presentations/Flag Raising

- M. McLaren; Re: Bylaw Enforcement

M. McLaren took to the podium and thanked Council for the opportunity to present to Council.

M. McLaren acknowledged the Winter Parking Ban Bylaw but raised concern with how/when enforcement is undertaken.

He provided details on winter maintenance undertaken in his area (Sunset Terrace) on the night in question, and his reason for not abiding by the winter parking ban (based on his interpretation on what he had read).

M. McLaren raised concern with wording of ‘may’ in the parking ticket.

He stated that it is difficult to know when maintenance will be undertaken (currently Facebook/radio) but admitted he doesn’t know how all residents could be advised.

K. MacInnis, Director of Community Development provided a presentation to Council outlining current overnight winter parking enforcement.

Details on the first 'big' winter storm of the season were presented. She referred to use of the word 'may' and noted it is very similar to wording used in the Motor Vehicle Act.

Details on the process for winter maintenance were provided.

Photos of the area, including parked vehicles were presented, and it was noted that although the area had been plowed, additional work may have been planned to take place.

Details on notification to the public were provided, along with the number of tickets issued and vehicles towed. Additional details were provided.

Information on details related to winter parking on the Town's website was provided.

K. MacInnis stated staff have reverted to more general wording in their notices to the public.

K. MacInnis noted that staff's recommendation is that the ticket should stand as issued by staff.

CAO J. Lawrence provided comment on the number of staff and unplanned events that mitigate planned work from time to time.

Discussion took place.

"It was Moved and Seconded that the tickets in the residential areas for the night in question be refunded." Motion defeated.

Brief discussion ensued, with Council providing comment.

Business from Minutes

- Correspondence: Re: J. MacPherson

CAO J. Lawrence advised that he is awaiting a response from Municipal Affairs on whether information sent to the Town regarding policing costs could be released.

The Deputy Clerk noted that she had responded to a telephone query from Mr. MacPherson earlier in the week on the matter.

New Business

- D. Roberts: Re: Homeless People in Community

Councillor D. Roberts provided comment on the possible number of homeless people in the area.

Following brief discussion Mayor L. Boucher noted that although a provincial matter, Council would be willing to receive further information from groups who may have additional information.

Brief discussion took place.

- Town of Antigonish Electric Utility – Large General Rate Schedule (M. Barkhouse)

M. Barkhouse took to the podium and provided details on the large general rate as outlined by the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board.

“It was Moved and Seconded that in accordance with the NS Utility and Review Board ruling on February 1st, 2023, staff be directed to prepare an amendment to the Town of Antigonish Electric Utility Large General Rate Schedule to match that of Nova Scotia Power rate increase effective February 1st, 2023. Further, that in accordance with the Town of Antigonish Electric Schedule “A” of Rates for Electric Supply & Services, St FX be given 15 days written notice of the utilities intention to amend the rates.” Motion Carried.

It was noted that St. FX University is the only customer that falls under the large general rate.

Correspondence

- J. Bain, Eastern District Planning Commission (EDPC); Request to Appoint Planning Staff Councillor M. Farrell noted that the EDPC had met on February 12, 2023.

“It was Moved and Seconded that Council approve the appointments of EDPC staff, replacing all previous appointments as outlined in correspondence dated February 16, 2023, from John Bain, Director, EDPC.” Motion carried.

- Financial Request, Special Olympics
Mayor L. Boucher noted that K. Gero would be representing NS in three (3) different events and spoke to the current policy.

It was generally agreed that further to the Town’s policy that \$200.00 (two hundred dollars) be provided to Special Olympics Nova Scotia to assist K. Gero to attend the Special Olympics World Summer Games in Berlin, Germany June 17-25, 2023.

Details on a fundraiser were provided.

- Financial Request, Canada Winter Games

It was generally agreed that further to the Town’s policy that \$200.00 (two hundred dollars) be provided to assist Jack Hayne to attend the 2023 Canada Winter Games.

- Financial Request, 2023 Canada Winter Games

It was generally agreed that further to the Town’s policy that \$200 (two hundred dollars) be provided to assist Bree MacPherson to attend the 2023 Canada Winter Games.

- Antigonish Tourism Association; Financial Acknowledgement

Mayor L. Boucher acknowledged correspondence from Mr. Curry on the Town’s contribution to the inaugural Antigonish Jazz Fest, noting the event was very successful and it is likely to be repeated.

- Knights of Columbus; Financial Acknowledgement

Mayor L. Boucher acknowledged correspondence from the Knights of Columbus for the Town’s contribution to the annual toy drive.

She noted the organization has provided gift cards to the parents instead of gifts.

Staff Reports

- CAO Report

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

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 (CEC)**

Councillor A. Murray noted the CEC had met and reported on the colours and types of flowers to be planted for the upcoming season.

Council was advised the cemetery program going very well, with fundraising ongoing and that the museum is robust with lots of great events being held.

- **Waste Management Committee**

Councillor D. Roberts noted the Waste Committee held their meeting in February and provided details on goals set for this year.

Councillor D. Roberts advised that 'trading treasures' may return as a fundraiser for a community organization and provided further details.

Brief discussion took place.

Councillor D. Roberts stated that a new spot is being looked at for signage for the Museum. CAO J. Lawrence agreed to follow up with K. Meisner on the location.

- **Accessibility Committee/Antigonish Arena Commission**

Councillor D. MacInnis noted the Arena Commission had met, that they are awaiting non draft financial statements for the Arena and that a major water break had been repaired.

CAO J. Lawrence comment on the events that B. Doyle has had to deal with since taking over his position at the Arena/

Council was advised that there is a new team lead from Upland Planning in place who is currently getting up to speed to bring forth the Accessibility Plan.

- **Planning Advisory Committee (PAC)**

Councillor M. Farrell noted previously that PAC had met in February, provided comment on attendance at a health board meeting, and spoke to the number of people (of all abilities) in attendance at the Fun Day at Keppoch.

Councillor M. Farrell reported on a Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM) meeting in January during which five (5) motions were passed and provided details.

Mayor L. Boucher elaborated on the Community Health Board, providing details on their mandate and he grants that were provided. She noted that new volunteer members are being sought.

Mayor L. Boucher noted she attended a presentation where there was an announcement that the provincial and federal governments will be providing a total of \$1.2 million dollars towards the purchase of an electric bus and two (2) hybrid buses for Antigonish Community Transit.

With there being no further business the meeting was adjourned.