

**Regular Council Meeting
April 17, 2023
Town Council Chambers**

Present

Mayor L. Boucher
Councillor S. Cameron
Councillor M. Farrell
Councillor A. Murray
Councillor D. MacInnis
Councillor D. Roberts

Also Present

Delegates
Media

Absent with Regret

Deputy Mayor W. Cormier

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 Regular Council meeting of March 20, 2023, and Epoll Minutes of March 30 and April 4, 2023.”

Proclamations/Presentations/Flag Raising

- A Roof Over Your Head – S. Hendra and C. DeCoffe
Councillor S. Cameron recused himself from the meeting.

Material was previously distributed, and Council was provided with a PowerPoint presentation by S. Hendra and C. DeCoffe, members of A Roof Over Your Head, on their organization, services they provide and issues the group faces in assisting those in need with housing. It was noted they applied for a grant through both the Town and County of Antigonish. A question-and-answer session followed.

Mayor L. Boucher thanked the delegates for their presentation.

Councillor S. Cameron re-joined the meeting.

- Antigonish Imagination Library Presentation; K. Robertsson
Material was previously distributed and K. Robertsson provided Council with a PowerPoint presentation on the Imagination Library, including goals, the program and costs. A question-and-answer session followed.

Mayor L. Boucher thanked Ms. Robertsson for her presentation.

- Positive Action for Keppoch – J. Chiasson

Council previously received material on the presentation by J. Chaisson of Positive Action for Keppoch. PowerPoint Slides were presented. It was noted that the organization is seeking \$25,000 in emergency funding as a result of hurricane Fiona. A question-and-answer session followed.

Mayor L. Boucher thanked J. Chaisson for his presentation.

- Antigonish Highland Society – Flag Raising Request

“It was Moved and Seconded to approve the application by the Antigonish Highland Society to raise the Gaelic flag at Chisholm Park as proposed.” Motion carried.

- Proclamation; Parental Alienation Awareness Day & Bubbles of Love Day

Mayor L. Boucher read aloud and signed the proclamation declaring April 25, 2023 as Parental Alienation Awareness and Bubbles of Love Day in the Town of Antigonish.

- Proclamation; Make Your Move Antigonish Day

Mayor L. Boucher read aloud and signed the Make Your Move Antigonish Day (May 9, 2023).

Business from Minutes

- 2nd and Final Reading – Private Hydrant Bylaw

Brief discussion took place.

“It was Moved and Seconded to give Second and Final Reading to the Private Hydrant Bylaw.” Motion carried.

New Business

- RK MacDonald Nursing Home – Approval of Amended Bylaws

Councillor M. Farrell recused herself from the meeting.

Councillor S. Cameron provided comments on the amended bylaws, noting that this was part of an accreditation program that the RK MacDonald Nursing Home was going through. It was noted that Councillors from both the Town and County were required to approve the amendments prior to the RK sending the amendments to the province.

“It was Moved and Seconded to approve the amended bylaws of the RK MacDonald Nursing Home as presented.” Motion carried.

- News Report Re: Consolidation

Councillor D. Roberts spoke to a recent local radio announcement, with Mayor L. Boucher noting there have been no meetings by either Town/County Councils with Minister Lohr.

- News Report Re: Community Recreation Centre

Councillor D. Roberts provided comment on recent comments by Mayor L. Boucher regarding a community recreation centre. Mayor L. Boucher provided clarification on her comments.

Brief discussion took place.

Councillor S. Cameron provided comment on a recent statement by Mayor L. Boucher regarding a community recreation centre. Discussion took place.

- **Media, Communications, and Information Policy**

Mayor L. Boucher spoke briefly to the Media, Communication and Information Policy and copies were distributed. She noted this policy was updated from a previous (2005) policy.

She spoke to the purpose of the Policy and provided a recent example where incorrect information was distributed through a local newspaper. She cautioned Council to ensure that they default to the proper person, and/or ensure facts are correct when speaking on behalf of Council.

Councillor S. Cameron provided comment on the Policy and his thought on Council being stifled by the Policy.

Add to May agenda.

Councillor A. Murray provided comment on the value of having the Communications staff person available to assist him.

CAO J. Lawrence provided comment noting he would appreciate being copied when Council is corresponding with staff.

Councillor D. Roberts provided comment noting that prior to this Policy, Councillors were permitted to speak with the media regarding committees they are involved with.

Discussion took place, with the CAO providing comment on the CAO structure.

Correspondence

- **St. Martha's Regional Hospital Auxiliary Re: Mayfest**

Mayor L. Boucher spoke to correspondence requesting sponsorship for Mayfest. It was generally agreed to determine what level of sponsorship was provided in the past.

- **Strait Area Mutual Aid Request**

Correspondence was distributed regarding a financial request for Strait Area Mutual Aid Association.

It was noted that the Town's Fire Chief is very supportive of this organization and that the financial request is critical.

"It was Moved and Seconded to provide \$5,000 to the Strait Area Mutual Aid Association, based on the outcome of the Town Fire Committee meeting." Motion carried.

Staff Reports

- **CAO Report**

CAO J. Lawrence responded to Councillor S. Cameron with regard to a warming center and possible funding for a generator for the library to become a warming centre.

The CAO agreed to inquire with Blaise MacDonald further on the matter.

Committee Reports

- **Antigonish Fire Committee**

Councillor S. Cameron noted that a Fire committee meeting will take place this Wednesday and that the People's Place Library received extra funding allowing staff to receive a modest raise.

Council was updated on matters regarding the RK MacDonald Guest home and Antigonish County Learning Association (ACALA) job fair.

- **Community Enhancement Committee (CEC)**

Councillor A. Murray noted that the CEC did not meet this month and that they are working on their mandates.

Positive comment was provided on the one-year anniversary of the museum curator and ongoing efforts related to the Pioneer Cemetery

- **Waste Management Committee**

Councillor D. Roberts noted that the Trading Treasures program is to be done on smaller scale for on campus students with items to be sold and the remainder to be given away.

Details were provided on a clean-up of the downtown area this Saturday past, with thanks extended to those involved. Thanks were also extended to St. FX students for a clean-up on Sunday, following St. Patrick's Day.

Council was advised that a diversion credit payment from Divert will be forthcoming, museum signate and St. FX waste audits.

- **Fire/Accessibility Committees**

Councillor D. MacInnis noted a Fire committee meeting would be held this Wednesday, an Antigonish Regional Emergency Management Organization (AREMO) meeting coming up and that the final version of the Accessibility Plan would be coming to the Accessibility Committee then to Council for approval.

- **Eastern District Planning Commission (EDPC)**

Councillor M. Farrell reported on an EDPC meeting in March and 1.5 million dollars value of work approved in permits, and noted she attended the Powwow at St. FX on behalf of Mayor Boucher.

It was noted that Mayor L. Boucher and Councillors, M. Farrell, A. Murray and D. Roberts would be attending the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM) conference in Digby (June/23), and that Councillor A. Murray would be attending the Saltscapes event in Halifax later this week.

In recognition of the 10th anniversary of the bombing of the Boston marathon, a moment of silence was held.

The meeting was adjourned.