

**Regular Council Meeting
May 16, 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

CAO J. Lawrence
Deputy Clerk D. Wilson

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

- Regular Council meeting of April 17, 2023, and Epoll meetings of April 19 and May 5th, 2023

“It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Minutes with an amendment to the Regular Council meeting Minutes of April 17, 2023.” Motion carried.

Proclamations/Presentations/Flag Raising

- Antigonish Coalition to End Poverty (C. Cameron/D. O’Leary) Re: Basic Income
Councillor S. Cameron recused himself from the meeting.

C. Cameron and D. O’Leary took to the podium and provided a PowerPoint presentation and details on ending poverty and a basic guaranteed income for Canadians. (Information was previously distributed to Council).

The following motion was put forth:

“That Antigonish Council request a letter from the Mayor to the Prime Minister, Ministers and Premier of NS calling on the Government of Canada to implement a Guaranteed Livable Basic Income, ensuring that everyone has sufficient income to meet their needs, which would contribute to the eradication of poverty and homelessness, relieving pressure on municipalities to use limited resources to fill in the gaps of a failing social safety net.” Motion carried.

Following a question-and-answer session Mayor L. Boucher thanked the delegates for their presentation.

Councillor S. Cameron rejoined the meeting.

- Scotiabank Mini-Pitch Project (M. Fraser/T. Reddick)
T. Reddick and M. Fraser took to the podium and provided a PowerPoint presentation and details on a Mini-Pitch project (multi-sport surface recommending double-pitch surface). A question-and-answer session followed.

Mayor L. Boucher thanked the delegates for their presentation.

- Flag Raising Request; Filipino Cultural Society of N.S.; June 3, 2023
It was noted that staff would adjust the flags flying as necessary and provide details on proposed date for an epoll with details on coordinating the flag raising.
- Flag Raising Request – Antigonish 2SLGBTQIA+; June 1-30, 2023
Previously discussed.
- Banner Hanging Request – Antigonish Highland Society; July 2-10, 2023
“It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Banner Hanging Request by the Antigonish Highland Society.” Motion carried.
- Flag Raising Request & Proclaim Opening of Victoria Order of Nurses (VON) Week - VON Antigonish; May 21-27, 2023
Mayor L. Boucher recognized VON Week and recognized the efforts of the organization.
“It was Moved and Seconded to approve the flag raising request of the Victoria Order of Nurses.” Motion carried.
- Proclamation; Lyme Disease Awareness Month; May 2023
Mayor L. Boucher read aloud and signed the Lyme Disease Awareness Month proclamation.

Business from Minutes

- Media Communications & Information Policy
Discussion took place with Councillor S. Cameron providing comment on various aspects of the Media Communications & Information Policy and Code of Conduct Policy.

Mayor L. Boucher provided comment noting the premise of the policy is very important in ensuring the Town is providing correct information to the public in a timely manner.

Discussion took place.

- RK MacDonald Bylaw – Conflict of Interest
CAO J. Lawrence noted that the Town recently approved amendments to the RK’s Bylaws and to an inconsistency on a noted conflict of interest in the recently approved amended RK MacDonald Bylaws.

"It was Moved and Seconded that Council endorse an amendment to the recently approved RK MacDonald Nursing Home Corporation Bylaws including the deletion of *'Further, the Finance Committee may, in its discretion, request the CAO or their designate to excuse themselves from all or part of a meeting in the event of a concern regarding any personal interest that the CAO or their designate is believed to have in the matters in issue'* and inserting the following text to Article IV - Section 6 – *'Conflict of Interest, also apply to any individual serving as a regular member of any committee, even if not a member of the RK Board, including advisors'*." Motion carried.

New Business

- Nova Scotia Summer Fest – Noise Bylaw Exemption Request

"It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Noise Bylaw Request for Nova Scotia Summerfest as requested." Motion carried.

- Antigonish Regional Emergency Measures Organization (AREMO); Motion for Letter to Minister Lohr

CAO J. Lawrence spoke on the matter of having specific businesses required to have generators noting this came about as a result of Hurricane Fiona.

"It was Moved and Seconded to direct staff to write Mr. Lohr as outlined in the AREMO memo from Councillor D. MacInnis." Motion carried.

Correspondence

- Financial Assistance Request – Special Olympics World Games, Germany

It was noted that the request submitted did not fit the policy requirements for financial assistance.

Mayor L. Boucher provided comment, noting the request was outside Council's policy, and suggested that, if desired, Councillors could personally make a donation. Brief discussion took place.

- Thank you, Imagination Library

Council acknowledged the correspondence from the Imagination Library.

Staff Reports

CAO Report

CAO J. Lawrence responded to questions from the CAO and staff Reports.

Following brief discussion, it was noted that in the future Council will be made aware of the award of tenders prior to the information being made public.

"It was Moved and Seconded to approve the CAO report as presented." Motion carried.

Committee Reports

- Police & License Committee

Deputy Mayor W. Cormier noted the Police & License Committee had met, with delegates in attendance raising concern regarding off campus St. Patrick's Day activities, and provided comment.

Council was provided with details on a Bylaw currently in place within another municipality that the Town may look to adopt.

- Antigonish Town Volunteer Fire Department/Antigonish People's Place Library
Councillor S. Cameron noted the Fire Committee met on April 19th during which time a budget was presented. He noted the Department is requesting a new piece of equipment, and as it is priced over \$12,500 notice is required, for a new form of 'jaws of life.'

Council was advised that the library audit is almost complete, and that there are no budget increases expected. Councillor S. Cameron also reported that the library received \$25,000 to provide menstrual products through public libraries.

- Community Enhancement Committee (CEC)/Antigonish Heritage Museum
Councillor A. Murray noted that he had CEC met and their mandate clarified. He provided further information from the meeting.

Council was advised that the Antigonish Heritage Museum is doing extremely well, with attendance increasing, and reported on a July 4th opening date for the Pioneer Cemetery.

- Waste Management Committee/ Antigonish Heritage Museum
Councillor D. Roberts provided comment on concerns raised regarding the second location for the museum sign noting it could affect water/sewer pipes as drilling would have to be done for posts.

Councillor D. Roberts was requested to have further discussion with the CAO on the signage matter.

Council was advised that when the Waste Bylaw was approved the Summary Offence Tickets (SOT) schedule has not been approved/updated in the handbook and therefore fines cannot be issued until confirmation is received back from the province. K. Gorman agreed to look further into the matter.

Councillor D. Roberts advised that the Waste Committee did not meet, however the summer months green bin collection began yesterday (now Mother's Day to Thanksgiving).

- Accessibility Committee
Councillor D. MacInnis noted the Accessibility Committee had met, and that he expects a motion will come forward during a special meeting of Council regarding the Accessibility Plan.
- Eastern District Planning Commission (EDPC)/Planning Advisory Committee (PAC)
Councillor M. Farrell noted the EDPC had met, with another meeting scheduled for this week. She provided details on her attendance of the Spring NSFM Conference.

Councillor M. Farrell noted she would be attending the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Conference in June, which had been put off since 2020.

Councillor M. Farrell provided details on other local events.

The meeting was adjourned.