

**Regular Council Meeting
June 21, 2023
Town Council Chambers**

Present

Mayor L. Boucher
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

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 an addition.” Motion carried.

Proclamations/Presentations/Flag Raisings

- SummerFest Lamp Post Banner Request (July 27- August 21, 2023)
“It was Moved and Seconded to approve the request for SummerFest banners to be placed on lamp posts for the period of July 27 to August 21, 2023.” Motion carried.

Business from Minutes

- Media Policy
Councillor S. Cameron noted that Councillor A. Murray recently wrote a letter which was published in the media and questioned whether it met the requirements of the Town’s Media Policy.

Mayor L. Boucher responded.

Discussion took place with the CAO providing clarification that it did meet the requirements of the media policy.

New Business

- Advisory Committee Appointment
Brief discussion took place.

“It was Moved and Seconded to appoint the community member to the Town’s Audit Committee as recommended by staff.” Motion carried.

- NS Ecology Action Centre – Coastal Protection Act (Mayor L. Boucher)

Mayor L. Boucher advised Council that discussion on coastal protection was now a moot point, given recent provincial actions, and provided clarification on the legislation.

- Amendment – Resolution 2023-05-23B Re: Waste Management Collection (M. Barkhouse)
Mayor L. Boucher vacated the Chair and Councillor D. MacInnis assumed the Chair.

M. Barkhouse took to the podium and noted that there was a typographical error in the approved 2023-05-23B Resolution.

“It was Moved and Seconded to rescind Resolution 2023-05-23B and replace it with the correct amount of 335.92 as recommended by staff.” Motion carried.

- Recent Nova Scotia Fires (Councillor D. Roberts)
Mayor L. Boucher referred discussion to Councillor D. Roberts who provided comment on the recent wildfires in Nova Scotia and noting she believed it would be appropriate for the Town to make a financial contribution to help those affected.

Mayor L. Boucher noted that the Red Cross NS Wildfires Appeal for every dollar would be tripled by being matched by both the Province and Federal governments.

Discussion took place.

“It was Moved and Seconded to provide a donation in the amount of \$5,000. (five thousand dollars) to the Red Cross NS Wildfires Appeal.” Motion carried.

- Endorsement – Volunteer of the Year
“It was Moved and Seconded to endorse the Town of Antigonish Volunteer of the Year as recommended by staff.” Motion carried.

- National Indigenous People’s Day
Councillor M. Farrell provided comment on National Indigenous People’s Day (celebrated on Summer Solstice Day) and provided additional comment. She requested those in attendance take a moment in recognition of those that were here first.

Correspondence

- Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM) Re: 12 Month Notice
Mayor L. Boucher introduced correspondence from NSFM and noted the Province is required to give 12 months notice whenever there is a proposed change that would affect municipalities financially, and expanded on details.

Brief discussion took place.

- Councillor B. MacFarlane (Municipality of the County of Antigonish) Re: Flags
Mayor L. Boucher introduced correspondence requesting that Town advocate residents to fly the Canadian flag on Canada Day.

It was noted that Councillor M. Farrell and County Councillor R. Deveau recently did a radio ad to promote the idea.

- Butterfly Way Project Re: T. Fraser

Mayor L. Boucher noted she attempted but was unable to reach Ms. Fraser today and noted that the Town is unable to make donations to individuals.

Discussion took place.

Following a suggestion that wildflowers be planted at the site of a former petro station, the CAO suggested that the Town reach out to the owners of the property. It was further suggested that the Town look at brownfield sites on Adam Street.

It was generally agreed that Mayor L. Boucher meet with Ms. Fraser - it was noted that any funds committed by the Town would have to go to a not-for-profit organization.

Staff Reports

- CAO Report

August 25/22, Review of boundary – extension requested until the Fall. CAO J. Lawrence responded and noted the Utility and Review Board have requested a plan for a boundary review in the event Consolidation does not proceed. (Reference Antigonish.ca)

CAO J. Lawrence agreed to have the correspondence distributed to Council.

Councillor D. Roberts questioned the Town Engineer on the status of line painting within downtown core.

K. Proctor, P.Eng. responded noting there is information in his report and provided comment.

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

Committee Reports

- People’s Place Library

Councillor S. Cameron indicated he had nothing to report on the library other than to note that Antigonish County Adult Learning Association is closing for the season.

- Community Enhancement

Councillor A. Murray noted that most flower planters are out including James Street and that the hanging of baskets have been delayed due to rain.

Councillor A. Murray updated Council on activities associated with the Antigonish Heritage Museum, Canada Day plans and the Pioneer Cemetery, noting Tuesday, July 4th at 4:00 PM will see the official opening of the cemetery.

- Antigonish Heritage Museum

Councillor D. Roberts noted the museum Curator contacted the railroad regarding placement of the museum sign. Discussion took place on the previously selected site for the sign. Councillor D. Roberts expanded on the preferred location for the sign close to the railway track.

Councillor A. Murray provided comment on the distance requirements of the railway.

Council was updated on the Waste Management Committee Trading Treasures – noting that from discussion at the last meeting, the event would not take place this year, however,

Councillor D. Roberts noted that following discussion it is hoped that the key stakeholders can put a plan together for the event to move forward for next year.

Councillor D. Roberts noted that beach clean-ups are going well.

- Accessibility Committee
Councillor D. MacInnis stated he had nothing to report.
- Planning Advisory Committee (PAC)
Councillor M Farrell noted PAC met in May will meet again next week. She provided details on a recent Eastern District Planning Commission meeting.

Council was provided with comment on the recent FCM conference.

Mayor L. Boucher provided observations on challenges here and across the country that were discussed with follow-up from Councillor M. Farrell.

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.