

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

Present

Mayor L. Boucher
Deputy Mayor W. Cormier
Councillor S. Cameron
Councillor M. Farrell
Councillor A. Murray
Councillor D. Roberts

CAO J. Lawrence
M. Barkhouse, Corporate Services
K. Gorman, Community Development
S. Long, Communications
L. Roy, Strategic Initiatives
K. Meisner, P.Eng., Supervisor, Facilities

Delegates

Media

Absent with Regret

Councillor D. MacInnis
D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk
K. Proctor P.Eng., Director, Public Works

Call to Order

Mayor L. Boucher called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and welcomed everyone.

Approval of Agenda

"It was Moved and Seconded to approve the agenda as amended." Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

"It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Minutes of the In Camera and Special Council meeting of June 6th and the In Camera and Regular Council meeting of June 21st, 2023." Motion carried.

Presentations/Proclamations

• **Motion from Planning Advisory Committee and Recommendation to Move to Public Hearing (First Reading)**

"It was Moved and Seconded to move to a public hearing for consideration of proposed amendments to the Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-law to allow for low-density residential units (three or fewer) (non-accessory) through the development agreement approval process in the Institutional Zone on August 21st at 6:00 pm and August 29th for Council to vote on the matter." Motion carried.

- **Eastern District Planning Commission (Building Inspection) Recommendation for Demolition**

J. Martin presented findings on the inspection of 22 Indian Gardens Trailer Court where there was work being done on the property without the benefit of a permit. On March 2, 2023, a stop work order was issued until an application for a building permit was received and it was noted that this trailer was not part of the flooding from November 2021. No new information or engineer's report has been received. On June 14th, 2023, a complaint regarding a dangerous and unsightly property was received with no response from the owner, M. Feinstein. J. Martin provided details on the process and requirements for a building permit to allow work on the trailer.

M. Feinstein provided background information on the trailer and the work being performed. Questions and discussion ensued. J. Martin provided information on the actions required to remedy the situation, beginning with a building permit.

"It was Moved and Seconded to approve a demolition order with the provision that if the trailer was made to secure and the garbage cleaned up around the site, and a building permit obtained, the order would be rescinded within a two (2) week period. Motion carried.

Business from Minutes

- **Municipal Council Boundary Review**

J. Lawrence provided an update on the Municipal Boundary Review "Form D" as required by the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (NSUARB) every eight years. A council meeting will be held in September in preparation for a NSUARB hearing.

"It was Moved and Seconded to proceed with the Municipal Boundary Review." Motion carried.

Brief discussion took place.

- **Butterfly Way Project**

Mayor L. Boucher noted she had tried twice to reach Ms. T. Fraser to discuss the Butterfly Way project but was unable to reach her.

- **Emergency Shelter**

J. Lawrence provided an update on the Emergency Shelter proposed locations. The Antigonish Regional Emergency Management Organization (AREMO) Advisory Committee has endorsed two locations with Heatherton being selected as one. The recommendation is to use uniform assessment as the funding mechanism, which leaves the Town with an \$18,131.00 required contribution. Council was advised that work continues with the second proposed location at the Canadian Association for Community Living (CACL)/Legion building on St. Ninian St.

Councillor D. Roberts inquired as to why more consideration was not given to St. Ninian's. The CAO indicated that St. Ninian's had not shown an interest when made aware of the option. Council asked for further follow-up with St. Ninian's

"It was Move and Seconded to accept the recommendation of the AREMO advisory committee and to request B. MacDonald, AREMO Coordinator, attend a joint council meeting to discuss the proposed second location." Motion carried.

- **Iris Communications**

Council S. Cameron requested from the consolidation steering committee the amount paid to Iris Communications. J. Lawrence agreed to provide that information to Council through email with the next week.

- **Mini Pitch Update**

K. MacInnis provided an update on behalf of Maria Fraser and Trevor Reddick on the Mini Pitch proposal. Scotiabank has come forward with their commitment but as it is too late in the construction season, a letter of support from the Town was requested.

“It was Moved and Seconded that the Town provide a letter of support for the Scotiabank Mini Pitch proposal.” Motion carried.

- **Water & Sewer – #7 Interchange**

J Lawrence provided details on the Town-owned water and sewer line at the #7 interchange. The county has agreed to a 2/3 to 1/3 costing arrangement on water, with the County paying 100% of the cost of the sewer, and design and inspection costs split 2/3 County and 1/3 Town and Nova Scotia Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (NSTIR) requested authorization from Town Council to proceed.

“It was Moved and Seconded to commit to pay the Town’s share as agreed.” Motion carried.

New Business

- **Housing Accelerator Fund**

J. Lawrence provided an update on the new Housing Accelerator Fund allowing for additional new multi units and affordable housing. An application is required to secure the Town’s portion of funding to investigate the status of housing in the Town and ways to improve and encourage development. Discussion ensued.

- **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DE&I) Stakeholder Group**

M. Barkhouse provided a brief update on the status of the DE&I Plan currently underway. A proponent was selected from the RFP process and a stakeholder meeting is planned. M. Barkhouse requested that in addition to Mayor L. Boucher a member of council be present at the meeting. Councillor A. Murray was nominated and accepted.

- **August Council Meeting**

Following brief discussion, the following motion was put forth:

“That Town Council not hold their regular August Council meeting unless a meeting is required to be scheduled.” Motion carried.

Correspondence

- **Financial Assistance Request – M Artibello re: National Volleyball**

The request was declined as per the policy.

- **Arts Health Antigonish**

Mayor L. Boucher provided an update on the New to Town play being staged at the Antigonish Heritage Museum. With the event being outside, a financial request was made to support the rental of a tent. It was noted that approximately 40 new Canadians will be receiving a certificate.

“It was Moved and Seconded to provide \$934.00 to Arts Health Antigonish towards the cost of a tent rental.” Motion carried.

Staff Reports

- CAO Report

K. Meisner responded to a questions on line painting, the blue lights at Whidden’s bridge and to reduced odours coming from the sewage lagoon.

K. MacInnis responded to a question about out of order parking meters.

Brief discussions took place.

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

Committee Reports

- Fire/Library/RCMP Advisory Committees

No updates

- Community Enhancement Committee

Councillor A. Murray reported on activities from the committee including possibly adding Mi’kmag place names to Town signage, Canada Day celebrations and the opening of the Pioneer Cemetery.

- Solid Waste Management Committee

No updates, breaking for the summer.

- Accessibility Committee

No updates

- Eastern District Planning Commission (EDPC)

No updates

Police and Licensing Committee

No updates

The next Regular Council meeting will be held on September 18th, 2023.

“It was Moved and Seconded to adjourn.” Motion Carried