

**Regular Town Council Meeting  
January 15, 2024  
Town Council Chambers**

**Present**

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

**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**

- December 18, 2023, Regular and In Camera and January 12, 2024 Emergency In Camera and Emergency Meetings

“It was Moved and Seconded to approve the meetings of December 18, 2023, Regular and In Camera and January 12, 2024, Emergency In Camera and Emergency Meetings.” Motion carried.

**Proclamations/Presentations/Flag Raising**

- St. Ninian’s Pioneer Cemetery Committee – Paving Proposal (M. MacDonald, Fr. D. MacLennan, F. Dunn)

At 6:01 PM Councillor M. Farrell declared a conflict of interest and left the meeting.

M. MacDonald took to the podium and provided Council with a PowerPoint presentation outlining the start and finish of the project and thanked Council for their support.

Details were provided on the parking lot and sidewalk (busy area/pooling of water in parking lot) and an agreement in principle from neighbors on proceeding with parking lot improvements.

F. Dunn took to the podium noting it is the hope of the group that the site will become a historical site including a park and noted that in order to do that improvements are required.

Council was advised that one of the adjoining property owners is agreeable to providing a required easement subject to improvements to the installation of new sidewalk and curb & gutter and outlined proposed improvements.

K. Proctor, P. Eng., spoke to issues that may make it difficult to provide what is being asked and suggested that a number of items be reviewed.

CAO J. Lawrence noted the project could be given consideration during budget deliberations, subject to identified constraints being resolved.

Mayor L. Boucher thanked the delegates for their presentation and they left the meeting.

At 6:14 PM Councillor M. Farrell re-joined the meeting.

- Proclamation – African Heritage Month

Mayor L. Boucher provided comment on African Heritage Month and acknowledged and thanked L. Reddick for her efforts over the years in promoting African Heritage Month.

Mayor L. Boucher read aloud and signed the 2024 African Heritage Month Proclamation.

“It was Moved and Seconded to approve a flag raising request (January 31<sup>st</sup>) as requested.”  
Motion carried

## **Business from Minutes**

### **New Business**

- Temporary Borrowing Resolution (TBR) Extension - Antigonish Community Solar Garden (M. Barkhouse)

M. Barkhouse took to the podium and provided details on the temporary borrowing resolution, noting that the solar garden project needs to be operational while the TBR is in effect – however, as the current temporary borrowing resolution will end prior to it becoming operational, the Town would be required to pay the outstanding balance. M. Barkhouse stated that she is requesting Council extend the TBR at the same amount, and noted that the borrowing would be rolled into the Fall debenture issue.

“It was Moved and Seconded to extend the Temporary Borrowing Resolution as detailed by staff.” Motion carried.

Discussion took place on delays in getting the solar garden up and running, with CAO J. Lawrence providing comment on issues identified by NSPI and advised that AREA is working on the matter.

- Solid Waste Management Committee

On behalf of Councillor D. Roberts, Mayor L. Boucher noted that a new community member is required for the Solid Waste Management Committee.

### **Correspondence**

- RK MacDonald Nursing Home – By-law Amendments

CAO J. Lawrence provided details on the amended RK MacDonald Bylaws, including when a conflict of interest is to be declared. It was noted that to make a single amendment the entire lot of Bylaws had to be included for the amendment.

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

## Staff Reports

- CAO Report

Councillor S. Cameron stated that he and other Councillors feel that the snow (ice banks) should be removed.

CAO J. Lawrence stated he believes that staff have arranged for the removal of the snow/ice later this week.

CAO J. Lawrence noted that for the period leading up to Christmas the Town offers enhanced snow removal in an effort to ensure downtown businesses are not unduly impacted during the busy shopping season.

It was suggested that a workshop be held to consider any changes/amendments that may need to be made, with CAO J. Lawrence noting that Council needs to be mindful of staff requirements for such activities.

K. Proctor noted that in coordinating such activities a number of factors need to be considered.

It was noted that subject to traffic control availability and weather, the snow/ice is scheduled to be removed from the downtown later this week.

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

## Committee Reports

- Eastern District Planning Commission (EDPC)

Councillor M. Farrell read aloud the four (4) motions arising from a recent EDPC meeting and for which discussion took place on various points:

“It was Moved and Seconded that that the Municipal Planning Strategy for the Town of Antigonish be amended by Inserting the following wording in bold text in Policy UDH12 as follows: Council shall consider by development agreement, subject to the conditions of Policy ADM16, any development or change in use otherwise **not** permitted by the land use designation and zone for any additional building, or part of a building, on a lot on which a historic or registered heritage building is situated subject to the following consideration...” Motion carried.

“It was Moved and Seconded that the Land Use By-law for the Town of Antigonish be amended by inserting the following wording in bold text to the “Hard Surface” definition in Part 3: Definitions of the Land Use By-law to read as Hard Surface means any surface on a lot that is impervious to water and shall include buildings, asphalt, and monolithic concrete surfaces including any area intended for parking.” Motion carried.

“It was Moved and Seconded that the Land Use By-law for the Town of Antigonish be amended to read as follows: 8.4.2 Design requirements for the Downtown Mixed Use (MU-1) Zone Part 8: Mixed Use Zones of the Land Use By-law: (i) Building Materials and Colours: (ii) Building materials shall be of high quality and shall include one or more of the following: a. Clapboard, shingles, board and batten siding or wood or composite materials; b. Brick, stone, tile, and like products; c. Parge Coat; d. Metal, ceramic, or composite material tiles.” Motion carried.

“It was Moved and Seconded that the Land Use By-law for the Town of Antigonish be amended to permit transitional homes in the RN-1 zones, RN-2 zones, and MH zones.” Motion carried.

- Accessibility Committee

Councillor D. MacInnis noted that Accessibility and Emergency Measures (EMO) committee meetings are both upcoming.

- Community Enhancement Committee (CEC)

Councillor A. Murray noted that a CEC meeting was cancelled due to illness. He further noted that the Museum Board will be seeking two (2) new members.

- People's Place Library

Councillor S. Cameron noted that the library will be hosting Leslie Crew from CBC who will be doing a reading in January and that Zoom links will be available.

Council was advised that an updated General Equivalency Diploma (GED) program to be offered and details on the new program were provided today on 989xfm.

- Deputy Mayor W. Cormier stated he had nothing to report.
- Mayor L. Boucher acknowledged that CAO J. Lawrence would soon be leaving his position with the Town and provided comment on his mentorship with staff, and Council's priorities.

A token of appreciation was presented to CAO J. Lawrence and a photo opportunity took place.

Mayor L. Boucher noted that Council was successful in hiring interim CAO Mr. Marvin MacDonald. She noted he has worked with the province for 18 years as well as being CAO for the District of St. Mary's.

The meeting was adjourned.