

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

Present

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

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 Regular Council meeting Minutes of March 18, 2024.” Motion carried.

Proclamations/Presentations/Flag Raising

- Access Awareness Week: Request to Raise Flag May 26-June 1, 2024

“It was Moved and Seconded to approve the request to raise the Access Awareness flag as requested.” Motion carried.

- Heart Failure Awareness Week (May 5-11, 2024) Proclamation

Mayor L. Boucher read aloud and signed the proclamation declaring May 5-11, 2024, Heart Failure Awareness Week.

- Moose Hide Campaign Proclamation

Mayor L. Boucher spoke to the Campaign, read aloud the proclamation and declared May 16, 2024, as Moose Hide Campaign Day. She noted pins have been ordered for staff and council related to the campaign.

- Introduction – Mayor L. Boucher welcomed Interim CAO M. MacDonald and provided details on his employment history prior to being employed with the Town of Antigonish.

New Business

- Date for May Council Meeting

Mayor L. Boucher noted that as the regular council meeting date falls on a holiday it would have to be changed.

“It was Moved and Seconded that the May 2024 regular council meeting be held on Tuesday, May 21, 2024.” Motion carried.

- Recommendation for 1st Reading from Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) Re: Development Agreement – 56 Highland Drive, Antigonish

Further to a recent Planning Advisory Committee meeting, Councillor M. Farrell put forth the following motion:

“That the Town of Antigonish enter into a Development Agreement with AA Harbour Enterprises Ltd. at 56 Highland Drive, PID 01221290, for a ten-unit apartment building with six one-bedroom apartments located on the main floor and four 2-bedroom units located on the second floor, and that a six foot fence be erected to create a light barrier from the parking area adjacent to the neighbouring property, and that Town Council give First Reading and Schedule a Public Hearing to be held on Monday, May 21, 2024”.

Discussion took place with reference to a ‘spring’ on the property and it was noted that it is expected that there will be improvements to the property.

- Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Position

“It was Moved and Seconded that the Town advertise for a permanent CAO.” Motion carried.

- World Central Kitchen

Councillor M. Farrell referred to the World Central Kitchen which came to the Town to feed people during Fiona and details on where they set up and cooked meals for people throughout the town and county. She noted that seven members of this organization were recently killed in Gaza.

The names and where the representatives were from were read aloud and a moment of silence took place in recognition of these volunteers.

Mayor L. Boucher further recognized the work carried out by the World Central Kitchen.

- Federation of Agriculture Lease with Town/County

Interim CAO M. MacDonald spoke to a need to have a lease with the Federation of Agriculture renewed with additional housekeeping matters including security, insurance and cleaning.

“It was Moved and Seconded that Council approve a lease agreement between the Town of Antigonish, Municipality of the County of Antigonish and the Antigonish Guysborough Federation of Agriculture with amendments as proposed by CAO M. MacDonald.” Motion carried.

- Offshore Energy

Councillor M. Farrell noted she accepted a position on the Strait of Canso Offshore Task Force and provided details on the purpose of the task force, and provided details on activities and the partners involved.

Correspondence

- HOW Club Re: Property Taxes

“It was generally agreed that HOW Club correspondence be considered during budget deliberations.” Motion carried.

- C. Morrow Re: Solar Garden

Correspondence from C. Morrow regarding the solar garden was introduced along with a response from M. Barkhouse, Director of Corporate Services.

As requested, the Deputy Clerk agreed to ensure a copy of the response from M. Barkhouse is forwarded to C. Morrow.

- Mayfest

Correspondence was received requesting funding for the upcoming Mayfest. Mayor L. Boucher agreed to distribute the letter to Council.

B. Collier agreed to review Council's past contributions to Mayfest.

Staff Reports

- CAO Report

"It was Moved and Seconded to accept the CAO Report as presented." Motion carried.

Committee Reports

- Pictou Antigonish Regional Library

While not related to a committee matter, Councillor S. Cameron advised that a property owner on Briery Brook Road indicated a fire hydrant in that area appears to still be leaking.

In response, K. Proctor, P.Eng., Director of Public agreed to look further into the matter.

- Eastern District Planning Commission (EDPC)

Councillor M. Farrell advised that on April 3rd she attended an EDPC board meeting, and that a motion arising from an April 8th Planning Advisory Committee had been put forth earlier during this meeting.

- Accessibility Committee/Emergency Management Committee

Councillor D. MacInnis indicated he had nothing to report.

- Waste Management Committee

Councillor D. Roberts referred to a Waste Management meeting held on March 27th and provided details on changes to extended producer responsibilities, noting requirements are coming by October 2024.

Details were provided on a St. FX Groundskeeper replacement on the Waste Management Committee.

It was noted that no applications were received to sit on the waste management committee. It was suggested again promoting the call for membership in social media and the local paper.

It was noted that the Canadian Association for Community Living (CACL) will be working on a program to divert materials from on and off campus students. A sea can will be available on campus, with donations going to CACL.

Council was advised that a Town waste clean-up is being scheduled for the end of the month. Councillors were welcomed to participate.

- Antigonish Heritage Museum

Councillor A. Murray provided a PowerPoint presentation and details on a proposal to have the 'Peace By Chocolate' building relocated to the area of the Antigonish Heritage Museum.

It was suggested that the Museum Board may come back to request financial assistance with the proposal.

It was generally agreed to seek additional information and it was suggested that the lease term be looked at beyond three (3) years.

Councillor A. Murray provided details on the Town/Council/Patnqked inaugural tri-council meeting and details arising from a conversation he had with Chief Corey Julian. He presented a proposed Welcome to Downtown Antigonish sign, (including the proper name for Antigonish in Micmac). Details were provided on the original place names in Nova Scotia.

Proposed signs were presented and it was noted the sign features the approved colours for marketing the Town.

Discussion took place. Councillor A. Murray acknowledged staff for their assistance on this project as well as the museum curator.

- Pictou/Antigonish Regional Library (PARL)

Councillor S. Cameron provided details on the following:

- Antigonish County Learning Association (ACALA) – lunch and learn this Wednesday – A roof over your head
- PARL Board -success ful for 3rd year in a row for virtual care provider.
- Continued funding for community pantry.

In response to a question from Mayor L. Boucher, K. MacInnis provided details on when the Micmaq signage might be put in place.

Councillor D. Roberts reported that the flower bed in front of the museum needs to be painted and 2-3 boards need to be replaced and questioned if the Town provide funding to replace the boards. Councillor D. Roberts was requested to share an email for financial request.

“At 7:01 PM it was Moved and Seconded to adjourn.” Motion carried.