

**Regular Town Council
May 21, 2024
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

Also in Attendance

M. MacDonald, Interim CAO
D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk

M. Barkhouse, Director of Corporate Services
S. Long, Communications
K. MacInnis, Director of Community Development
K. Proctor, P.Eng., Director of Public Works
L. Roy, Strategic Initiatives

Media

Members of the Galley

Call to Order

Mayor L. Boucher called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

Approval of Agenda

“It was Moved and Seconded to approve the agenda with an addition.” Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

“It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Regular and In Camera Council Meeting Minutes of April 15, 2024, Special In Camera Minutes of May 6, 2024, Special Council Minutes of May 13, 2024, epoll Minutes of April 18th, April 23rd (x3), and April 29, 2024.” Motion carried.

Proclamations/Presentations/Flag Raising

- Antigonish Highland Society Presentation; (D. Cochrane and T. MacIsoc.
The presenters provided details on what the Highland Society does and a brief overview of the events for the upcoming 159th Highland Games.

A brief video was provided.

Mayor L. Boucher called for any questions from Council and commended the Highland Society on what they do for the community, the financial impact and economic spin-off that they bring to the Town, and the fact that the organization is made of volunteers.

- M. Barkhouse Re: Town of Antigonish Electric Utility General Rate Application (GRA) and Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (NSUARB) Compliance Filing

M. Barkhouse provided Council with a PowerPoint presentation on details on a recent GRA application on behalf of the Town's Electric Utility.

Details on a PowerPoint Presentation on Compliance Filing with the NSUARB were provided.

M. Barkhouse noted that the filing was made, which followed by a request from the NSUARB to 'refile' the Filing.

Council was provided with a timeline on the filing to the NSUARB, noting new rates are expected to be implemented in June 2024 (as approved by the NSUARB).

M. Barkhouse reviewed the five (5) requirements set out in the NSUARB decision including: Revenue Required, Powerline Load Loss, Depreciation Expense, Street Lighting; and Domestic Base Rate.

Council was provided with a residential impact slide, which is still expected to be under NSPI's rate.

It was noted that the Town had not applied for a General Rate Application since the 1980's.

M. Barkhouse responded to questions from Council.

At 7:44 PM M. Barkhouse concluded her presentation.

- Flag Raising Request – Pride Antigonish, June 3-12, 2024
"It was Moved and Seconded to approve the flag raising request of Pride Antigonish." Motion carried.
- Filipino Cultural Society – June 12-28, 2024
"It was Moved and Seconded to approve the flag raising request of the Filipino Cultural Society." Motion carried.

Business from Minutes

- Policing Costs Re: St. Patrick's Day Event (Deputy Mayor W. Cormier)
Deputy Mayor W. Cormier responded to a recent query from Councillor S. Cameron on the costs associated with a St. Patrick's Day event this year on a public street in the Town.

Deputy Mayor W. Cormier advised that the costs were approximately \$8,000.00. - for members on staff and for those they bring in – similar to any other event - and noted the event took place on the Saturday prior to St. Patrick's Day (Feb. 16th).

Details were provided on the RCMP's arrival on site, and it was noted that the University did not have a sanctioned event.

Council was advised on the status of the Nuisance Party bylaw.

Brief discussion took place on the positive collaboration between the Town, RCMP and University.

Brief discussion took place.

New Business

- “That Council accept the recommendation of the Planning Advisory Committee TO DISCHARGE the existing development agreement for 23 Main Street PIDS 01229590, 01229608, 01229616, 01229624, 01395336, 01295344, 10081347 and 10135291 that is in place between Paradis Investment Limited and the Town of Antigonish.” Motion carried.

At 7:53 PM Councillor S. Cameron recused himself from the meeting and rejoined the meeting at 7:54 PM.

- “That Council accept the recommendation of the Planning Advisory Committee TO GIVE FIRST READING that the proposed development agreement between Town of Antigonish and Paradis Investment Limited for 23 Main Street on PIDs 01229608, 1229616, and 01229624 for the construction of a mixed-use building containing retail commercial and/or professional offices, and up to 24 residential units by development agree in accordance with the provisions of the Town of Antigonish Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use Bylaw and amendments.” Motion carried.
- “That Council give 2nd and final reading to enter into a development agreement to allow for the development of a ten-unit apartment building by development agreement at 56 Highland Drive for property P.I.D #01221290, including that a six-foot fence be erected to create a light barrier from the parking area adjacent to the neighbouring property.” Motion carried.

“That Council approve amendments to the Town of Antigonish Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-law to:

- Amend Policy UDH-12 to read 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...”
- Amend the definition of “Hard Surface” in Part 3: Definitions of the Land Use By-law to read as follows: “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.”
- Amend 8.4.2(i)(ii)(a) Design Requirements for the Downtown Mixed-Use (MU-1) Zone **by removing the words “including vinyl”** to read as follows: “Building materials shall be of a 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;...”
- Amend Table 6 of Part 7: Residential Neighbourhood Zones to list Group Homes as a permitted use in the RN-1, RN-2, and MH Zones.” Motion carried

At 8:08 PM J. Bain left the meeting

- 2024 Municipal Election (M. MacDonald)
M. MacDonald, Interim CAO, noted that the 2024 municipal election will take place in October 2024, and noted A. Armsworthy was the Returning Officer in 2020 and would be again in 2024.

Council was provided with a PowerPoint presentation outlining details from the 2020 Town of Antigonish municipal election, including statistics and a recommendation from the 2020 election Returning Officer.

Council was advised that a decision is required on the method(s) of voting for the upcoming election, and it was noted that online, telephone and paper ballots were utilized during the last election.

Discussion took place.

It was generally agreed to have the Interim CAO discuss 'bottlenecking' with the returning officer and how it could be improved.

"It was Moved and Seconded that the Town utilize a hybrid election model that includes paper, electronic and telephone voting options for the upcoming municipal election." Motion carried.

- Appointment to Waste Management Committee
Councillor D. Roberts put forth the following motion:

"That Council appoint D. Bowie to the Town's Waste Management Committee for a two-year term." Motion carried.

RK MacDonald Board of Directors Appointment

"That Council reappoint D. Chisolm to an additional term on the Board of Directors of the RK MacDonald Board of Directors." Motion carried.

Councillor D. Roberts noted that the RK's Annual General Meeting would be held on June 27th in the RK Chapel, and that she would like the Town to promote the meeting on the Town's website.

- Ice Bucket Challenge (Mayor L. Boucher)
Mayor L. Boucher noted that the ice bucket challenge was initially done as a promotion to raise funds and awareness for ALS. She noted she received a request from T. Landry whose husband passed away from ALS, and who would like the town to assist in raising awareness. It was noted that June 21st is Global ALS awareness day.

Mayor L. Boucher agreed to seek additional information and agreed to forward the email request to Council.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

Staff Reports - CAO Report

In response to a request from Councillor A. Murray K. Proctor provided an update on various infrastructure matters.

Discussion took place.

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

Committee Reports

K. MacInnis responded to a query from Council noting that following accident on James Street, the RCMP called stakeholders together to see what could be done to educate pedestrians on safety and noted a sub-committee was formed from the stakeholder group.

Regarding the parking kiosk on Sydney Street K. MacInnis provided Council with details on ongoing issues noting the kiosk has been working on and off.

In response to a comment from Council regarding odour at the east end of Main Street, K. Proctor responded.

- Police & License (P&L) Committee

Deputy Mayor W. Cormier noted that during a recent P&L meeting it was agreed to request Council consider the purchase of two (2) additional beacons during budget deliberations.

- Fire Committee

Councillor S. Cameron put forth the following motion:

“That Council accept the recommendation of Fire Chief Bill Chisholm for the appointment of J. Clapperton as a new member to the Antigonish Town Volunteer Fire Department.”

- Community Enhancement Committee

Councillor A. Murray noted that flowers are growing in green houses in preparation for planting and raised concern with very dry soil conditions.

- Waste Management Committee

Councillor D. Roberts reported on a successful effort to divert material from landfill by locating a sea can on St FX campus. She noted it was considered a success and thanked those involved. She advised they would look at what we might be done next year.

Council was provided with details on a cleanup held in the downtown which saw the collection of 31 bags of garbage. She noted she would be attending liquor establishments to request cigarette disposal containers be put in place.

- Accessibility/Emergency Management

Councillor D. MacInnis noted he had nothing to report.

- Eastern District Planning Commission (EDPC)

Councillor M. Farrell reported on a recent and upcoming meeting of the EDPC.

Council was provided with details and highlights from the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities Spring conference recently held in Baddeck.

Councillor M. Farrell noted she had received a request for a letter of support for the Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) and agreed to forward the request to Mayor L. Boucher.

- Alternative Resource Energy Authority (AREA)

Mayor L. Boucher noted that AREA would be meeting tomorrow and have a lot of projects on the table.

With there being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.