

**Regular Town Council
June 17, 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

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 7:00 PM.

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 Public Hearing, Regular and In Camera Council Meeting Minutes of May 21st, 2024, epoll Minutes of May 21st, 2024, Special and In Camera Minutes of May 29, 2024. Motion carried.

Operating & Capital Budgets

Mayor Boucher brought forth the motion as recommended by the audit committee to approve both the operating and capital budget.

It was Moved and Seconded to approve the budgets as presented. Motion carried

Mayor Boucher vacated the Chair to Deputy Mayor W. Cormier and put forth the resolutions:

Resolution 2024-06-17A Re: 2024-25 Budget

It was "Moved and Seconded

WHEREAS the Town of Antigonish estimates the amount of \$ 13,061,933.46 as necessary expenditures for the lawful purposes of general Town operations, and revenue, other than taxation revenues in the amount of \$ 6,418,676.05 for the year 2024-25; AND WHEREAS the net amount required to be raised by taxation is in the amount of

\$6,643,257.41;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the tax rate to be set for 2024-25 at the rate of \$ 1.13 for Residential and Resource and \$ 2.65 for Commercial properties per \$100.00 of taxable assessment; and a Fire Levy of \$ 0.044 per \$100.00 of assessment.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the due date for 2024-25 taxes to be paid to the Town of Antigonish be July 18, 2024;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the interest charged on taxes be set at 9% per annum on the taxes outstanding after the aforesaid due date of July 18, 2024.” Motion carried.

Resolution 2024-06-17B Re: 2024-25 Waste Management Collection

It was “Moved and Seconded

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Town of Antigonish that the Waste Management Collection charge for 2024-25 be established as \$ 338.92 per equivalent unit;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the due date for 2024-25 charges to be paid to the Town of Antigonish be July 18, 2024;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the interest charged be set at 9% per annum on the amounts outstanding after the aforesaid due date of July 18, 2024.” Motion carried.

Resolution 2024-06-17C Re: 2024-25 Sewer Rate

It was “Moved and Seconded

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Town of Antigonish that the Sewer Rate charge for 2024-25 be established as 0.664 of Water Base Rate and Total Water Consumption charge;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the due date for 2024-25 charges to be paid to the Town of Antigonish 30 days from the invoice date;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the interest charged be set at 9% per annum on the amounts outstanding after the aforesaid due date of 30 days from the invoice date.”

Motion carried.

Temporary Borrowing Resolution

- M. Barkhouse took to the podium to present a Temporary Borrowing Resolution for the Bethany Reservoir Rehabilitation Project as part of the Water Utility General Rate application which was approved by the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board on June 6th, 2024.

Discussion took place

It was moved and seconded to approve the resolution as presented.

Motion Carried

Proclamations/Presentations/Flag Raising

Antigonish Heritage Museum

- Dr. Barry MacKenzie & Councilor Andrew Murray took to the podium to present a proposal to relocate the original Peace By Chocolate shop located on Bay St. to the Heritage Museum location to use as a space to showcase the Antigonish Town and County immigrant and refugee communities. Discussion ensued. A letter of request from the Antigonish Heritage Museum was requested.

Heartland Tour

- Jennifer Baudoux took to the podium to present on this year's Heartland Tour and asked for council's support to participate in the tour and share details including the date of July 9th, 2024, with people in the community. Activities will take place at the Skate Park prior to a walk incorporating the new AT Trail along the 104.

At 7:44 PM J. Baudoux concluded her presentation.

ASAP Artist Run Centre

- Amberlee Boulton provided a presentation on the history of ASAP Artist Run Centre and thanked council for the previous support. Since 2010 ASAP has provided a free space for visual artists to work and collaborate. They now provide money to one or two artists per year to create art that engages the community. Some previous events include Antigonight, Janet Fecteau's show, Art Installations (murals) and at St. Martha's Regional Hospital Pediatric Emergency Unit. Mayor Boucher requested a letter of support to provide to Council.

CACL Social Enterprise - Councillor S. Cameron recused himself.

- Maria VanVonderen provided an update on the work at the CACL. Since 1977, the CACL has supported local residents with intellectual and physical disabilities and now has 4 programs to offer: vocational, life skills/development, health & wellness and residential. M. VanVonderen continued, providing information on a new Provincial REMEDY Program which is a result of a decision of the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal from a complaint lodged by 3 individuals and the Disability Rights Coalition. Four main problems were identified, and six recommendations were outlined. Mayor Boucher thanked M. VanVonderen for her presentation and requested she submit a letter requesting support.

ALS - Ice Bucket Challenge

Mayor Boucher read the proclamation for June to be ALS Awareness Month and acknowledged that several residents of the Town suffer from ALS. She also noted that it is the 10th year anniversary of the Ice Bucket Challenge

Business from Minutes

Public Hearing - Development Agreement for 23 Main St.

It was moved and seconded to approve the development agreement for 23 Main St. as presented. Motion Carried

"That Municipal Council approve the proposed development agreement attached to this staff report between Paradis Investments Limited and the Town of Antigonish with respect to the construction of a mixed-use retail commercial and/or professional office building including up to 24 residential units by development agreement at 23 Main Street on properties PID# 01229608, 01229616, and 01229624 in accordance with the provisions of the Town of Antigonish Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-law.

And that Municipal Council discharge the existing development agreement in place for 23 Main Street on Property Identifier Numbers (PIDs) 01229590, 01229608, 01229616, 01229624,

01295336, 01295344, 10081347 and 10135291 between Paradis Investments Limited and the Municipality of the Town of Antigonish.”

Sewage Treatment Plant & Collage St. Bridge

- K. Proctor provided an update on the College St. bridge advising council that since the bridge has been closed, an exploratory opening was created to have consultants assess the cribwork under the bridge. A possible concept was provided to the consultants which was supported to provide some interim stabilization to the bridge. Working sketches are being prepared to obtain and prepare quotations for the work required. The second phase would be supporting the sidewalk. The work can only be performed during low water conditions. Discussion took place
- K. Proctor updated council on the odour being emitted from the sewage treatment plant. It has been taking longer than expected to remedy the situation as this is not a mechanical issue as has been in the past. There has been a change in the incoming influent, and it is not where it should be. There has also been an increase in the suspended solids making a change to the biomass in the plant. Dept of Environment has been updated. Discussion ensued.

Community Solar Garden

- M. MacDonald provided an update on the solar garden. Repairs continue at the site; damaged material has been ordered. The upper array is almost ready for commissioning and power production should begin soon.

New Business

Noise Exemption Request - Summerfest

- K. MacInnis requested a motion from council to extend the noise exemption to midnight for the Summerfest concert.

It was moved and seconded to accept the motion as presented.

Motion Carried

Delivery of Notices

- Councilor A. Murray requested that the matter be tabled at a later date.

Correspondence

St. Martha's Regional Hospital Auxiliary – Mayfest Thank You

- Mayor Boucher acknowledged the thank you letter council received their contributions to the event.

Golden Clickers Bowling Team – 55 Plus Games Donation

- The bowling team will be travelling to the National 55 Plus Games and a donation was provided.

It was moved and seconded to accept the motion as presented.

Motion Carried

Dr. J.H. Gillis Regional High School – Relay for Life

- Although the deadline was missed, council agreed to provide a donation after the request is received by the contingency fund.

Staff Reports

- CAO Report

In response to a request from Mayor Boucher, K. MacInnis provided an update on the 150-year banner flags for St. Ninians Parish. Councilor M. Farrell recused herself.

Discussion took place.

“It was Moved and Seconded to allow the banners to be hung.” Motion carried.

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

Committee Reports

Eastern District Planning Commission (EDPC)

- Councillor M. Farrell reported that the committee did not meet this past month but will meet at the end of June. The PAC’s work was concentrated on the development agreement for 23 Main St.

Accessibility/Emergency Management

- Councillor D. MacInnis noted he had nothing to report.

Waste Management Committee

- Councillor D. Roberts reported on a webinar she attended on circular materials. She read from the draft report on Nova Scotia’s readiness from the presentation which she will share with council. Councillor Roberts also noted that Lance Crowley, a long standing member of the committee, and the landlord’s association was retiring from the committee and should be recognized for his outstanding contributions. She read his letter to the committee.

It was moved and seconded to give formal recognition to Lance L. Crowley, representative of the landlord’s association, for his outstanding contributions made to the waste management committee during his term. Motion carried

Community Enhancement Committee

Councillor A. Murray noted that the Pioneer Cemetery is celebrating its 200-year anniversary and will be hosting a celebration on Sunday, July 12th with a Celtic concert from 2:00 to 3:15pm. Councillor Murray will send a notice to council. He also noted that the flowers are out and in relation put forward a preamble from the committee on a possible motion to council. “At the last Community Enhancement Committee discussion was had about recognizing businesses that the Town used to contract for beautification services. The basis of the discussion was determining whether it was appropriate to formally recognize businesses where the Town paid for a service or does formal recognition get reserved for individuals or organizations that volunteer their services and time. The committee was looking for some direction from Council on the matter.” Discussion ensued.

Motion:

That Town Council determine whether it is appropriate to formally recognize a current for former businesses that has provided a service to the Town.

It was recommended by Councillor Cameron to have the motion tabled and ask staff to investigate existing and pre-existing policy on giving formal recognition to businesses that get paid for services. Mayor Boucher added that recognition such as flag raising usually comes from requests from the community which protects council from appearing to forget a group. It was agreed as recommended by CAO, Marvin MacDonald, that staff can develop a policy or modify an existing policy with direction from council.

Motion was amended to:

That Town Council will defer to Staff to develop an Acknowledgement Policy that would determine whether it is appropriate to formally recognize a current or former business, as well as individuals, or organizations that have provided service to the Town.

It was moved and seconded to amend the motion as presented. Motion carried

It was moved and seconded to approve the motion as presented. Motion carried

Fire Committee

- Councillor S. Cameron had nothing to report

Police & License (P&L) Committee

- Deputy Mayor W. Cormier had nothing to report.

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