

**Regular Town Council
January 20th, 2025
Town Council Chambers**

Present

Mayor S. Cameron
Deputy Mayor D. Roberts
Councillor P. McKenna
Councillor L. MacLellan
Councillor A. Murray
Councillor J. Pelly
Councillor J. Sullivan

Also in Attendance

M. Fougere, Deputy Clerk
M. Barkhouse, Director of Corporate Services & Acting CAO
S. Long, Marketing & Communications
K. MacInnis, Director of Community Development
K. Meisner, P. Eng., Director of Public Works
L. Roy, Strategic Initiatives

Members of the Gallery
Ross MacDonald, Municipal Advisor
Media

Absent with regrets

R. Delorey, CAO

Call to Order

1. Call to Order

Mayor S. Cameron called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM and acknowledged that the meeting took place in the traditional and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people, and that we are all treaty people.

2. Approval of Agenda

It was Moved and Seconded "to approve the agenda as presented."

Motion carried.

3. Approval of Minutes

It was Moved and Seconded "to approve the December 16th Regular Council Minutes and the Special Council Meeting Minutes of January 9th, 2025, as presented."

Motion carried.

4. Presentations/Flag Requests/Proclamation

4.1 All-of-Us Society for Art Presentation (ASAP) – Artist-Run Centre

Amberlee Boulton presented to Council on behalf of ASAP, a registered non-profit arts organization, highlighting its role in supporting community arts partners and assisting local organizations with fees.

ASAP is committed to fostering artistic expression and providing direct support to artists.

The organization has transitioned from providing rent subsidies to an Artist Residency Program, which offers financial assistance directly to artists. There are currently 30 artists invoiced in the program.

Discussion ensued.

The Mayor thanked Amberlee Boulton for her time and presentation and advised that a funding decision would be deferred to the next Council meeting.

4.2 U16 Eastern Challenge, U18 Canada Cup – STFX

Ron Laurette, representing Football Nova Scotia, took the podium to present on behalf of the organization. He expressed the honor and excitement of hosting the Canada Cup, which will bring the best high school football players from across the country to compete at St. Francis Xavier University (STFX). He emphasized that this event is not only an opportunity to showcase young athletes' talents but also to highlight the achievements of Football Nova Scotia and the broader benefits of the sport.

Football Nova Scotia is a non-profit organization dedicated to the development of the sport in the province.

R. Laurette provided an overview of the tournament, emphasizing its significance: The tournament will be held at STFX University, utilizing its world-class facilities.

Eastern Canadian Cup: July 14–19

Eastern Championship: July 17–21

Over 3,500 athletes expected to compete in Antigonish throughout the event week.

Council members discussed the opportunity to show support for this event.

R. Laurette noted that Football Nova Scotia has secured several major sponsorships and continues to seek additional support. The group is requesting \$10,000 from the Council to help fund the event.

During discussions, Council referenced the 2018 Special Olympics event hosted in Antigonish, acknowledging the tremendous success and positive impact it had on the community.

Mayor S. Cameron thanked R. Laurette for his presentation and confirmed that the funding request will be moved to the next Council meeting for a decision.

4.3 African Heritage Month Proclamation

The Mayor officially read the proclamation declaring February 2025 as African Heritage Month and will proceed with signing the proclamation.

5. Business from Minutes

5.1 Sodexo and Antigonish Community Fridge Partnership (follow up and decision)

This is a follow-up from the correspondence that was circulated in the council package from the Dec 16th meeting.

Motion

It was moved and second “That the Town of Antigonish donate for the 2024/2025 fiscal year \$3500.00 to SODEXO the Circular Food Solution to support the paper products to ensure the continuation of the food to our food pantry. “

Motion carried.

Councillors expressed support for the initiative, with many emphasizing that community support is the key factor, rather than the size of the organization.

5.2 Atlantic Challenger Baseball All-Star Series (August 1-3, 2025)

Correspondence regarding the Atlantic Challenger Baseball All-Star Series was included in the Council package for the December 16th meeting. At that time, the group had not made a specific funding request, and Council requested that they return with a detailed proposal.

New correspondence was submitted by Randy Crouse, outlining the upcoming event, which will be held in Antigonish from August 1–3, 2025.

The organization requested sponsorship at various levels, and Council made a motion to approve the Grand Slam sponsorship.

Motion

It was Moved and Seconded “that Council approve the Grand Slam Sponsorship in the amount of \$5,000.00 for the Atlantic All Star Series August 1-3, 2025, from the Discretionary fund.

Motion carried.

Discussions ensued.

6. New Business

6.1 Committee Policy (K. MacInnis)

K. MacInnis provided an overview to Council on the recommendation to amend the Advisory Committee Policy. The amendment is based on the decision to create three new Advisory Committees:

- Water and Sewer Advisory Committee
- Recreation Advisory Committee
- Public Property & Streets Advisory Committee

K. MacInnis recommended that Council amend the policy to include the terms of reference for these three new committees. K. MacInnis is requesting that Council provide the scope of work for each committee by January 31st, allowing staff to proceed with making the necessary policy amendments and incorporating the terms of reference.

It was recommended that the Community Enhancement Committee be changed back to the Beautification Committee.

Following the October 2024 Election, committee appointments have now expired. To address this, all community member terms will be reset as of April 1, 2025, allowing current members to reapply and providing an opportunity to advertise for new committee positions.

Additionally, K. MacInnis requested the establishment of a Nominations Committee to provide recommendations to Council regarding committee memberships and any vacancies. A draft copy of the terms of reference for this committee was included in the Council package. The recommended membership for this committee would consist of the Mayor, two Councillors, and the Deputy Clerk.

Discussions ensued.

Motion

It was moved and seconded “that Town Council endorse staff to proceed with drafting amendments to the Advisory Committee Policy to include a Nomination Committee, Water & Sewer Committee, Public Streets & Sidewalks Committee, and Recreation Committee Terms of Reference.”

Councillor J. Sullivan asked to make an amendment to remove Water & Sewer, Public Streets & Sidewalks and replace it with the Infrastructure Committee.

Amended Motion

It was Moved and Seconded “that Town Council endorse staff to proceed with drafting amendments to the Advisory Committee Policy to include a Nomination Committee, Infrastructure Committee, and Recreation Committee Terms of Reference.”

Motion carried.

Motion

It was Moved and Seconded “That all current citizen appointments to Town Advisory Committees expire effective March 31, 2025, and notwithstanding the Advisory Committee Policy Limitations, all current citizen representatives are eligible to apply for appointments/reappointment for a term beginning April 1, 2025 and current committee member are permitted to maintain their seat until the vacancy is filled. Advertising for citizen applications for all advisory committees will begin as soon as possible.”

Motion carried.

Discussions ensued.

Quick recess took place at 8:09 PM

Meeting resumed at 8:16pm

6.2 FCM Board Elections (A. Murray)

Councillor A. Murray spoke about the open vacancy for one seat on the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Board. He requested Council’s permission to apply for the position and outlined both his interest in the role and the associated requirements of the position.

If successful, Councillor Murray would serve as one of 14 representatives on the board.

Mayor S. Cameron informed Council that, if Councillor Murray is appointed, it would be the municipality’s responsibility to support his participation in the FCM.

Resolution

BE IT RESOLVED that Council of the **Town of Antigonish** endorse **Councillor Andrew Murray** to stand for election on FCM's Board of Directors, for the period starting in March 2025 and ending **June 2025 or as per further defined by the FCM Board**; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Council assumes all costs associated with **Councillor Andrew Murray** attending FCM's Board of Directors meetings.

It was Moved and Seconded "to approve the motion to accept Councillor A. Murray apply for the FCM Term."

Motion carried.

Discussions ensued.

6.3 Snow Removal – Main St

Councillor J. Sullivan expressed that he called staff and was disappointed that snow removal on Main Street (banks) was not completed on December 22. It was noted that when the infrastructure committee is formed a policy can be created.

M. Barkhouse, Acting CAO, addressed the concern, explaining that the Council's motion directed the Streets and Sidewalks Committee to meet with staff to develop and update the snow removal policy for snowbanks on Main Street. However, since the committee has not been formed, staff were not instructed to begin work on that specific recommendation.

At the time, staff were focused on other snow-clearing priorities. M. Barkhouse also noted that the Public Works Department was short-staffed, operating with one fewer operator and previously down by two when the issue first arose. Additionally, the Infrastructure committee had not yet been formed.

Councillor A. Murray addressed concerns regarding the accessibility parking spots on Main Street, noting that these spaces are not being properly cleared. He emphasized that individuals are unable to exit their vehicles safely and suggested that Public Works should manually shovel these spots to ensure accessibility.

Discussions ensued.

M. Barkhouse, Acting CAO, acknowledged the concern but noted that the current snow removal policy, established in 1998, must be followed. She also highlighted that Public Works operates with limited staff, and reallocating staff from snow-clearing duties to hand-shoveling would reduce efficiency.

M. Barkhouse also noted the financial impact of this additional work, including potential labor costs, should be considered during the budget process. Further discussions should also address the necessary equipment, staff requirements, and any required traffic authority or safety training.

K. Meisner, Director of Public Works, responded to some of these concerns.

Councillor J. Sullivan recommended referring this matter to the Infrastructure Committee for further discussion and to work it out there and to develop a direction for operations staff.

Discussions ensued.

Councillor J. Sullivan recommended referring the matter to the Infrastructure Committee for further discussion and to develop a clear direction for operations staff.

Discussions ensued.

7. Correspondence

Mayor S. Cameron circulated a correspondence document that was emailed to the Mayor this morning, January 20th. The document will be included in the February 18th Council Agenda under Correspondence.

8. Staff Reports

- Election Report

A roundtable discussion took place, during which M. Fougere, Deputy Clerk, addressed questions and noted concerns for consideration in future elections.

It was Moved and Seconded “to accept the elections report as presented.”

Motion carried.

It was Moved and Seconded “to accept the staff reports as presented.”

Motion carried.

9. Councillors Reports

Deputy Mayor D. Roberts had no updates to report.

J. Pelly didn't have any committee reports, however she wanted to provide an update on the recent Move and Mingling event hosted by the Town recreation department at the John Paul Centre. A pilot program federally and provincially funded, A total of 50 people registered, with an additional 15 on the waitlist. K. MacInnis mentioned that they are exploring larger venue options to accommodate the demand. She also noted that the Town's fitness programs are now live streamed across multiple communities.

Councillor A. Murray reported that he has his first ACALA board meeting coming up on January 28th and looking forward to it. He also mentioned an upcoming RK meeting.

Councillor J. Sullivan shared that the Eastern District Planning Advisory Committee met in Port Hawkesbury on January 9th. He noted that 75% of the staff are new, describing it as a growing process.

Councillor P. McKenna attended his first Waste Committee meeting and commended Councillor L. MacLellan for chairing and did a great job. P. McKenna also attended his first PARC (People Antigonish Recreation Committee) meeting, noting that it was interesting and that the group is progressing in a positive direction, with staff also in attendance.

Councillor L. MacLellan reported on his first Waste Committee meeting, noting that the manufacturer is significantly behind schedule. While they were expected to complete their part by April 1st, key decisions have yet to be made, despite it already being January. He highlighted concerns regarding circular materials and cautioned Council, as per staff recommendations, that an immediate decision will need to be made in the coming weeks.

10. Adjournment at 8:58 PM.