

**Regular Town Council
February 18, 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

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

Members of the Gallery
Media

1. Call to Order

Mayor S. Cameron called the meeting to order at 5:17 PM.

2. In Camera

Mayor S. Cameron called for a motion to move the meeting in-camera at 5:21 PM to discuss matters relating to;

- acquisition, sale, lease and security of municipal property;
- personnel matters; and
- contract negotiations

It was Moved and Seconded “that council move in-camera”

Motion carried.

In-Camera adjourned at 6:15pm.

Council doors opened to the public.

Regular Council resumed at 6:21 pm. Mayor S. Cameron acknowledged that the meeting took place in the traditional and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people, and that we are all treaty people.

3. Approval of Agenda

It was Moved and Seconded “to approve the agenda as amended.”

Motion carried.

4. Approval of Minutes

It was Moved and Seconded “to approve the minutes of January 20th as presented”

Motion carried.

5. Conflict of Interest

No conflicts declared.

6. Presentations/Flag Requests/Proclamation

6.1 RCMP – APP Consultation Presentation S/Sgt. Kimberly Hillier

S/Sgt. Kimberly Hillier of the Antigonish District RCMP Detachment presented the annual RCMP consultation update to Council, outlining the district's priorities, challenges, and policing efforts. Sgt. James Jessome was also in attendance.

The Antigonish Detachment consists of 22 regular members and 4 detachment assistants, with funding through Provincial and Municipal Police Agreements. The detachment responds to over 4,700 calls per year, with 13 frontline members handling day-to-day policing.

S/Sgt. Hillier emphasized the importance of continued collaboration between the RCMP, Council, and the community to maintain safety and security in Antigonish.

S/Sgt. K. Hillier noted that all RCMP officers in Antigonish are now equipped with body cameras to enhance accountability and transparency.

Council engaged in discussions, and the Mayor thanked S/Sgt. K. Hillier and Sgt. J. Jessome for their presentation.

6.2 2030 National Special Olympics Summer Games – Bob Hale

Bob Hale and Mark Chisholm presented to Council, showcasing a video from the 2018 Special Olympics National Games and discussing St. Francis Xavier University (STFX)’s bid to host the 2030 Games.

Highlights from the Presentation:

1,300 athletes participated in the 2018 National Games.

STFX is bidding to host the 2030 National Special Olympics Summer Games, with the bid due March 1st.

The 2018 Games had a major positive impact on Antigonish, boosting its reputation as a host for inclusive national events.

B. Hale noted they have Community & Organizational Support from Special Olympics Nova Scotia (NS), Antigonish Chamber of Commerce, Municipality of the County of Antigonish

St. Francis Xavier University (STFX) as a key hosting partner.

Councillor discussions ensued.

A Special Council Meeting will be scheduled within the next week to further discuss the funding request and make a final decision.

Mayor and Council thanked Bob Hale and Mark Chisholm for their presentation and efforts in bringing this opportunity to Antigonish.

6.3 Antigonish Art Fair - Beth Latwaitis & Joan MacDonald

Beth Latwaitis and Joan MacDonald took the podium to provide an overview of the Antigonish Art Fair and its development, recognizing the late David Miller as a key contributor.

B. Latwaitis shared the Art fair's history, starting in June 2013, and the establishment of the Arts House at the former Visitor Information Centre, where the Arts House remains currently.

Arts House has engaged 930 students and provides creative space for artists, including newcomer Nataliia Dolomanska. It also features a health-approved rental kitchen.

The upcoming Art Fair is set to begin on June 27th. J. MacDonald elaborated on their ambitious vision. The event, running from late June to the end of August, remains free.

Councillor discussions ensued.

Mayor and Council thanked both B. Latwatis and J. MacDonald for coming in to present.

Mayor S. Cameron noted that council will break for a 5-minute recess at 7:29pm

The Meeting reconvened at 7:40 pm.

7. Business from Minutes

7.1 (a) Town Council Advisory Committee Policy – Proposed Amendment

R. Delorey provided an update to council on the proposed amendment to the current Advisory Committee Policy.

Recommended Motion

To accept the amended Advisory Committee Policy as presented, with the following amendments:

- Addition of three new committees (Nominations, Recreation, and Infrastructure)
- Consolidated the meeting default meeting schedule (as called by the chair) under general policy rather than within each individual committee section
- Clarified that priority consideration for community appointments to all committees is given to Town residents, but other residents may be appointed
- CAO may sit as a non-voting member of any committee
- Individual Committee memberships updated that Deputy Clerk or Designate (rather than CAO or designate) sits as secretary
- Added consistent reference to Director or Designate for each committee as a non-voting staff member representative.
- Housekeeping language updates – typos, grammar, etc..

It was Moved and Seconded “to accept the amended Advisory Committee Policy as presented.”

Motion Carried.

7.1(b) Appointed members of Council to various Town Council Advisory Committees

Recommended Motion:

The Town of Antigonish appointed members of Council to various Town Council Advisory Committees at the November 18, 2024 Regular Council Meeting. To ensure accurate representation and participation the Town of Antigonish hereby

repeals all previous appointments of members of Council to Town Advisory Committees and appoints the following members to the respective committees, effective February 18, 2025:

- Accessibility Committee: Chair Councillor Patrick McKenna, Mayor Sean Cameron
- Beautification Committee: Chair Councillor Andrew Murray, Councillor Leon MacLellan, Councillor Patrick McKenna
- Fire Committee: Chair Deputy Mayor Diane Roberts, Councillor Juanita Pelly, Councillor Jack Sullivan
- Infrastructure Committee: Chair Councillor Jack Sullivan, Deputy Mayor Diane Roberts, Councillor Leon MacLellan
- Nomination Committee – Chair Mayor Sean Cameron, Deputy Mayor Diane Roberts, Councillor Andrew Murray.
- Police & License Committee: Chair Deputy Mayor Diane Roberts, Councillor Patrick McKenna, Councillor Jack Sullivan
- Planning Advisory: Chair Councillor Jack Sullivan, Mayor Sean Cameron, Councillor Leon MacLellan
- Recreation Committee: Chair Councillor Juanita Pelly, Deputy Mayor Diane Roberts
- Waste Management Committee: Chair Councillor Leon MacLellan, Councillor Patrick McKenna, Councillor Jack Sullivan

It was Moved and Seconded, “to accept the amended advisory committee policy as presented with the following amendments.”

Motion Carried.

Discussions ensued.

7.2 Snow Removal Policy for Street Parking Meters

Mayor S. Cameron asked to Repeal the Policy.

Discussions ensued.

Motion

It was Moved and Seconded “to repeal the Snow Removal Policy for Street Parking Meters.”

Motion Carried.

Concerns were raised about the lack of a snow removal policy, particularly its impact from the curb to the sidewalk.

A suggestion was made to review the policy at the next Infrastructure Committee meeting.

The rationale for repealing the policy was explained, with an emphasis on developing a new one.

7.3 ASAP funding request

This request was deferred from January 20th Regular Council Meeting. There was a motion made to approve the funding request.

Motion

It was Moved and Seconded “to approve \$3,500.00 to the ASAP group.”

Amendment:

Councillor D. Roberts proposed an amendment to reduce the amount to \$2,000.00 seconded by Councillor P. McKenna. The amendment was defeated.

Motion Carried.

7.4 Eastern U16 Challenge/U18 Cup STFX

This request was deferred from January 20th Regular Council Meeting. There was a motion made to approve the funding request.

Motion

It was Moved and Seconded “to provide \$10,000 to the U16 Challenge/U18 Cup STFX.”

Council discussions followed. Councillor L. MacLellan requested for some type an analysis of the event, and CAO R. Delorey suggested using the 2018 Special Olympics as a reference if the decision was deferred.

Councillor J. Pelly made a motion to defer this request to a special council meeting at another date.

Motion

It was Moved and Seconded “to defer the funding request to the Special Council Meeting on February 26th, 2025.

Motion carried.

8. New Business

8.1 **Electric and Water Account Write-offs**

M. Barkhouse distributed a list of old electric utility and water accounts to be written-off. She took to the podium and provided Council with details for a total of \$63,825.75.

Recommended Motion:

That Council approve the write-off of the presented ninety-two (92) inactive electric utility accounts and four (4) inactive water and sewer utility accounts totaling \$63,825.75.

It was Moved and Seconded “That Council approve the write off as presented totaling \$63,825.75.”

Motion Carried.

8.2 **Tax Sale Approval**

M. Barkhouse presented a list of five property tax accounts and made the following recommendation to council.

Recommended Motion:

"That Council approve the following five properties for tax sale, as per Municipal Government Act and the Town of Antigonish Tax Collection Policy:

AAN: 00740268

AAN: 01235656

AAN: 02745038

AAN: 03140989

AAN: 07961324

It was Moved and Seconded “That Council approve the tax sale of five properties.”

Motion Carried.

8.3 **Highway 4 Church St. Roundabout – Kyle Meisner, P.Eng., Director of Public Works**

Motion

Council approves entering into agreement with the Province of Nova Scotia and the County of Antigonish to complete the trunk 4 and Church St. round about, with a commitment of up to \$205,000 to cover one third (1/3) of municipal design /inspection costs and one half (1/2) of the municipal water meter and line costs.

Motion Carried.

8.4 Appointment of Town Council Members to Community Committees Policy

CAO, R. Delorey spoke – one thing with or without the policy not much changes. Board does not have a seat. Antigonish Transit Society has a seat reserved for the Town. If the Town chooses to exercise, then they are appointed to the board.

Motion to repeal

It was Moved and Seconded “to repeal the Appointment of Town Council Members to Community Committees Policy.”

Motion carried.

Discussions ensued.

8.5 Procurement Policy

Mayor S. Cameron expressed concerns about the policy, citing inefficiencies. Referring to a motion adopted at the December 16th Regular Council Meeting, on Flood Protection. He noted that requiring a tendering process for minor matters, due to the lack of standing offers, was an unnecessary use of Town staff time. The motion was revisited in the new year, and he found the policy cumbersome.

Discussions ensued.

CAO R. Delorey explained that while a standing offer would streamline the process. He welcomed the opportunity to revisit the policy.

8.6 Live Streaming (Councillor P. McKenna)

Councillor P. McKenna advised council that he would like to make the following motion.

Motion

It was Moved and Seconded that “The Town will develop a policy and budget to enable live streaming of Town Council meetings, upon adoption of the policy and any necessary technological investments, the Town of Antigonish will proceed with live streaming Town Council meetings in accordance with the policy.”

Motion Carried.

Discussions ensued.

8.7 Addressing Issues with Delinquent Landlords (Deputy Mayor D. Roberts)

Deputy Mayor D. Roberts brought forward concerns regarding a housing situation she encountered after receiving a call from a town resident. The issue was related to the poor condition of a rental property, which she believed should be condemned.

On a positive note, Deputy Mayor Roberts reported that the tenant will be relocating at the beginning of March.

Discussions ensued.

CAO, R. Delorey clarified a few key points;

That all landlord-tenant matters fall under the Tenancy Board Act, which governs disputes between both parties. In this case, the residents' issue would fall under the Tenancy Board Act.

The Unsightly Premises By-Law allows the municipality to intervene in property conditions.

The Building Code (enforced by EDPC) would determine if a property should be condemned.

Both By-Law Enforcement and EDPC will work together to address the issue.

Residents should be encouraged to file complaints through appropriate channels.

Relevant information will be forwarded to By-Law Enforcement for further action.

Discussions ensued.

8.8 Municipal Response to U.S. Tariff Threats (Councillor L. MacLellan)

Tariffs threaten the economic security of our town, province, and country. Municipal leaders across Canada are standing up and speaking out against the impact that 25% U.S. import tariffs—including those now set to come into force against Canadian steel and aluminium in March—would have on our communities. Even though Canada was able to delay the implementation of more general tariffs until March 1, a severe threat to our economy and the vital Canada-U.S. relationship remains.

Motion:

It was Moved and Seconded “That the Town of Antigonish Council supports the municipal, provincial, and federal governments' efforts to respond to the threat of US tariffs.

Motion carried.

8.9 Pucks for Purpose

Correspondence was communicated to all Council members.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the Town purchase a table at the Pucks for purpose Banquet for \$375.00.

Motion Carried.

9. Correspondence

9.1 Sodexo (Follow up from Jan 20 Council meeting)

Town Council since received a letter from Sodexo to Decline the funds approved.

9.2 Minister EM -Emergency Management (Jan 17)

Minister sent a Letter that was circulated to council for information purposes.

9.3 2025 REP Provincial Spelling Bee – May 10

Council received a funding request via email for sponsorship of the 2025 REP Provincial Spelling Bee.

Motion

It was moved and seconded “that the Town of Antigonish sponsor at the silver level of \$500.00 to the 2025 REP Provincial Spelling Bee, May 10th, 2025”

Motion Carried.

10. Staff Reports

CAO R. Delorey informed the council that a Special Council Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 25th, followed by an Audit Committee meeting.

He also recommended holding Committee of the Whole meetings on the first Tuesday of each month.

Motion

It was Moved and Seconded “to make Committee of the Whole meet the first Tuesday of each month. Start at 6:00 PM.

Motion Carried.

10. Council Reports

Mayor D. Roberts, attended three committee meetings, as well as African Heritage Town and STFX event.

Due to the length of this meeting, Council decided to defer the council reports to the first Committee of the Whole meeting on March 4th.

11. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:04 PM.