

**Public Hearing and Regular Council Meeting
June 21, 2021
Virtual Via Zoom**

Present

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

Absent with Regret

Councillor W. Cormier

Also Present

J. Lawrence, CAO
D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk
L. Roy, Strategic Initiatives
M. Barkhouse, Human Resources
S. Scannell, Community Development
K. Meisner, P.Eng., Facilities

Media

Observers

Public Hearing

- Repeals Bylaw

Mayor L. Boucher called for any written submissions for the Repeals Bylaw, with the Deputy Clerk confirming no written submissions were received.

Mayor L. Boucher did not receive a response for calls for submissions or comments from the public on the Repeals Bylaw.

- Lodging Home Registry Bylaw

Mayor L. Boucher called for any written submissions for the amendments to the Lodging Home Bylaw, with the Deputy Clerk confirming no written submissions were received.

Mayor L. Boucher did not receive a response for calls for submissions or comments from the public for amendments to the Lodging Home Registry Bylaw.

The Public Hearing was adjourned at 6:07 PM.

Regular Town Council Meeting

Call to Order

Mayor L. Boucher called the meeting to order at 6:08 PM.

Mayor L. Boucher provided comment and acknowledged National Indigenous Peoples Day noting Indigenous People would be holding a vigil for the 215 children whose bodies were recently found in unmarked graves.

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 Minutes of the In Camera and Regular Council Meetings of May 17th, and Special and In Camera Minutes of May 20th, 2021, and Epoll meetings of May 26th and June 1, 2021.” Motion carried.

Presentations/Proclamations/Flag Requests

There were no presentations or flag raising requests.

New Business

- Public Hearing
 - Repeals Bylaw
“It was Moved and Seconded to give 2nd and final reading to amendments to the Repeals Bylaw to include the repeal of the Swimming Pool and Building Bylaw.” Motion carried.
 - Lodging Home Bylaw
“It was Moved and Seconded to give 2nd and final reading to amendments to the Lodging Home Registry Bylaw.” Motion carried.

- Affordable Housing Report
Mayor L. Boucher noted that the province has released a report on Affordable Housing. She advised she would send a link to report to Council and requested that they review it, noting affordable housing is an issue within our town, province and country. She further stated that she hoped that Council would follow up with discussion.

Business from Minutes

- Low Income Property Tax Exemption Extension
M. Barkhouse noted that she was seeking an additional extension to the exemption to July 16, 2021 and expanded on the details.

“It was Moved and Seconded to extend the Low- Income Property Tax Exemption to July 16, 2021.” Motion carried.

Correspondence

- NS Minister of Environment Re: Public Engagement
Mayor L. Boucher noted the Minister is seeking input from the public and noted the importance of climate change, and further noted the province is seeking input from Council and residents.

CAO J. Lawrence advised that staff have posted the details to the Town’s website and noted the Alternative Resource Energy Authority (AREA) is also reviewing the request to potentially provide input.

Mayor L. Boucher invited comments from Council.

- R. Mattie Re: NS Summer fest Kitchen Party Tour
Mayor L. Boucher noted Council had discussed the matter briefly and expanded on the details.

S. Scannell stated Council had supported a NS Summer Fest event at Columbus Field, but with the cancellation of the event, it has now been reset as a smaller venue and noted the details are outlined in the correspondence and that staff would continue to work with the host.

- MP P. Julian (New Westminster-Burnaby)

Mayor L. Boucher noted MP Julian is seeking support banning the Hate Act. She requested Council take the opportunity to review the document and noted that it would come back to the Council Agenda next month.

Staff Reports

- CAO Reports

Mayor L. Boucher called on Council for any questions they may have on the CAO report.

CAO J. Lawrence responded to questions from Councillor D. Roberts on an encroachment for a new business and the building inspection report.

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

- Strategic Priorities Update

CAO J. Lawrence provided comment and noted he would provide hard copies of the strategic priorities list to Council. He requested staff provide a brief overview.

S. Scannell, M. Barkhouse, K. Meisner, P.Eng. (on behalf of K. Proctor, P.Eng.) and CAO J. Lawrence provided a brief update on strategic priorities for their respective departments, with staff responding to comments from Council.

Committee Reports

- Fire/Library Committees

Councillor S. Cameron stated he had nothing to report from the Fire Committee and noted that the Peoples' Place Library had reopened last Friday.

- Community Enhancement Committee

Deputy Mayor A. Murray noted the Community Enhancement Committee had met and provided comment on a presentation on a butterfly pollinator project. Details were provided on a group of citizens wanting to 'get the town growing'. Council was provided with details on a beautification project for James Street noting a grant will be applied for through Municipal Affairs toward the project costs.

Councillor M. Farrell commended Deputy Mayor A. Murray for his personal time and commitment to his community.

- Solid Waste Management

Councillor D. Roberts noted she is hoping to have a meeting of the Waste Management Committee in July. She noted they do have an individual from St.FX environmental department (Mr. D. Campbell) who will be joining the Committee.

Councillor D. Roberts provided comment on a report to County from the Chair of RK MacDonald Guest Home. Mayor L. Boucher suggested that if there are things that can be shared from the Board that Council would be open to hearing about them.

- Accessibility Committee

Councillor D. MacInnis noted the committee had met in June and provided details on a proposal from R. Crouse regarding a collaboration between a group of individuals (Accessible Antigonish) and the Town, which, if approved, would provide more accessibility related items for recreation.

S. Scannell provided additional comment on the proposal, the benefit of the partnership, and he expanded on the details.

“It was Moved and Seconded to recommend to Council to support a mutually beneficial fundraising collaboration with Accessible Antigonish (to a maximum of 50%) with the goal of improving accessibility as it relates to recreation with the Town, and to include the re-surfacing of the pathway to the Sandlot during the upcoming budget year.” Motion carried.

- Planning Advisory Committee

Councillor M. Farrell noted a meeting was held in May and that she had nothing to report.

Mayor L. Boucher referred to a meeting with St. FX noting they have officially cancelled all in person Home Coming activities for 2021. She noted some events will be held virtually and expanded on the details.

Mayor L. Boucher noted a letter had been sent out to staff and council from CAO J. Lawrence acknowledging the work done by staff during Covid. She noted staff rose to the occasion to ensure the Town was able to operate as close to normal as possible while working from home.

With there being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:01 PM.