

**Regular Council Meeting
July 19, 2021
Town Council Chambers**

Present

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

Also Present

J. Lawrence, CAO
D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk
L. Roy, Strategic Initiatives
M. Barkhouse, Human Resources
S. Scannell, Community Development
K. Proctor, Town Engineer

Media

Call to Order

Mayor L. Boucher called the meeting to order at 6:09 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 Minutes of the In Camera, Public Hearing and Regular Council Meetings of June 21st, Special In Camera and Council Budget meetings of June 22nd and Epoll Meeting Minutes of June 25th and July 7th, 2021." Motion carried.

Business from Minutes

- MP P. Julian; Seeking Support Banning Hate Act (Re: June Correspondence)
Mayor L. Boucher noted MP P. Julian has a motion to support banning anti-hate crimes, (symbols, etc.)

Deputy Mayor A. Murray stated his support for the motion. Brief discussion took place.

"It was Moved and Seconded to support the motion put forth by MP P. Julian with respect to acts of hate and to have staff direct correspondence in this regard." Motion carried.

New Business

- Royal Canadian Legion Branch 59; Grant Request
Mayor L. Boucher provided details on the grant request from the Legion, noting that the financial request would have to come out of the Town's discretionary funds.

Brief discussion took place.

“It was Moved and Seconded to support the financial request of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 59 in the amount of \$12,500.00 (twelve thousand five hundred dollars).” Motion carried.

- Parking Meter Bylaw

S. Scannell, Director of Community Development took to the podium to provide Council with an overview of the proposed Parking Meter Bylaw. Background details were provided noting staff were looking at modernizing and updating enforcement services and provided a legal review of enforcement services.

S. Scannell provided details on legislative authority, issues identified, and details on the Parking Meter Bylaw, including enforcement and penalties and exemptions. It was noted that while there is the potential to increase revenue, the intent is to create a more effective and efficient system.

Councillor D. Roberts stated her objection to the increase in the fine violation from \$10.00 to \$25.00 and stated her reasons.

Remaining Councillors provided comment. CAO J. Lawrence stated that increasing the rate to \$20-25. aligns the Town with other municipal units.

“It was Moved and Seconded to accept the recommendations from staff and give First Reading and move to a Public Hearing on the Parking Meter Bylaw with a fine violation of \$20.00.” Motion carried with Councillor D. Roberts voting nay.

Brief discussion took place.

S. Scannell responded to a query regarding enforcement of non-metered parking areas.

Discussion took place on timelines to have the Parking Meter Bylaw in effect for September 2021.

S. Scannell noted a requirement to approve the fees in the Municipal User Fees Policy.

“It was Moved and Seconded to approve the fees as proposed in the Municipal User Fees Policy.” Motion carried.

- Intermunicipal Shared IT Program (B. Luciano)

B. Luciano took to the podium and spoke to an Intermunicipal Shared IT Program that began in 2019 and provided details including partnerships.

He noted an Agreement has been drafted which Council would be asked to consider.

Council was advised on the partnership between the municipal units, shared concerns, established Memorandum of Understanding and a Request for Proposals and the 2020 concept to move forward with a 3-year plan, funding formula and Intermunicipal Agreement (IMA). B. Luciano provided specific details on the IMA considerations and next steps. Financial details were presented.

Council was provided with three (3) options and recommendations and B. Luciano responded to queries from Council.

CAO J. Lawrence provided comment and noted that the Town is more complex than other municipalities involved with the Agreement.

“It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Inter-municipal Agreement and joining the IT Shared Services Association as recommended by staff.” Motion carried.

- Pad-Mount Transformer Policy (M. Barkhouse)

M. Barkhouse took to the podium to provide details on a proposed Policy for external padmount transformers and the reason for doing so. She provided information on padmount transformers and their purpose. She expanded on details noting it would bring the Town more in line with other municipal/electricity providers.

Council was advised there is no determined lifecycle for a padmount transformer with the most prominent issue affecting them being lightning strikes.

M. Barkhouse expanded on details that would be contained within a Padmount Transformer Policy, and customer and Electric Utility responsibilities.

M. Barkhouse called for questions.

CAO J. Lawrence noted the policy would bring the Town more in line with other common practices.

K. Proctor responded to a question from Council.

CAO J. Lawrence noted that a formal policy would be brought to the next regular meeting of Council.

- Re-financing Debt for Water Treatment Facility (Temporary Borrowing Resolution)

M. Barkhouse referred to a memo outlining details on the TBR to re-finance the Water Treatment Plant in the amount of \$800,000.

M. Barkhouse noted that Corporate Services is requesting Council approves the attached Temporary Borrowing Resolution for \$800,000, with an expected payment schedule of \$160,000 in principal payments per year (2022 – 2026).

“It was Moved and Second that Council approve Temporary Borrowing Resolution 26-B1 in the amount of \$800,000 for refinancing of the Town’s Water Treatment Plant.” Motion carried.

- Request for Exemption Re: Noise Bylaw (Re: Grad Farewell)

Mayor L. Boucher referred to the request for an exemption for a Grad Farewell and noted it meets the criteria set out by the province for such events. Details were provided.

“It was Moved and Seconded to approve the exemption to the Noise Bylaw as requested for the Grad Farewell.” Motion carried.

Correspondence

- A. Hanifen Re: Adam Street

K. Proctor provided details on past installation of infrastructure on Bay Street, including consideration for possible future development. He noted a swale was installed at the time and provided comment on the work. He further referred to the fact that no easements are in place and lack of control in the area.

CAO J. Lawrence provided comment noting that easements that were to be obtained by the Town were never followed through.

Brief discussion took place.

K. Proctor provided comment noting that more than one (1) property owner is involved and noted the Town will be limited in what it can do.

Council was in general agreement on the limitations and direction the Town can take to rectify the concerns of the homeowner.

- J & K Pelly, 244 Hawthorne Street Re: Water Quality
Moved to In Camera for discussion.

Staff Reports

- CAO Report

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

Committee Reports

- Planning Advisory Committee

Councillor M. Farrell noted that the Planning Committee had met in June with the next meeting scheduled for September.

- Accessibility Committee

Councillor D. MacInnis noted the Accessibility Committee did not meet. S. Scannell provided a presentation on a partnership with Challenger Baseball to enhance accessibility at recreation facilities, and provided details on a fundraising effort, noting it will be similar to how funds were raised for the Skatepark.

- Waste Management Committee

Councillor D. Roberts noted a Waste Management meeting was recently held to wrap up details on the Waste Bylaw and provided details on a waste clean-up for the Town through the Great Nova Scotia Pick Up. Council was advised that the Town now has a stock of compost containers that residents can purchase.

- Community Enhancement Committee

Deputy Mayor A. Murray spoke to a recent walkabout for the purpose of improvements to the downtown area and noted the Town would be applying for funding through the Atlantic Canada Opportunity Agency (AOOA).

Deputy Mayor A. Murray put forth a motion from a previous Community Development Committee meeting:

“It was Moved and Seconded that the Town form a partnership with Antigonish Culture Alive for the purpose of assisting with the facilitation of the public art program.” Motion carried.

- Antigonish County Learning Association (ACALA)/Antigonish Regional Library Board
Councillor S. Cameron advised that ACALA has finished for the year and that he had attended the awards presentation.

Councillor S. Cameron advised that he had attending meetings of the Library Board and the RCMP Advisory Committee.

- Police & License Committee
Councillor W. Cormier noted that the Police & License Committee had met at which time the Parking Meter Bylaw was introduced. He noted the University will be implementing paid parking in the upcoming academic year.

Mayor L. Boucher stated meetings are still being held with the County and St.FX, that the University is gearing up for September with good messaging out to students to vaccinate prior to returning. She noted they are expecting a good start and that there are strong communications with all students.

Mayor L. Boucher read from the back cover of the Alumni News which thanked the Town and County for there efforts during Covid.

Councillor M. Farrell took the opportunity to thank staff for their efforts over the past weekend that supported the Arts Fair. Mayor L. Boucher expanded on the details on a partnership between the Air Cadets and the Arts Fair.

At 8:00 PM the meeting was adjourned.