

**Regular Council Meeting
April 18, 2016
Town Council Chambers**

Present

Mayor C. Chisholm
Deputy Mayor L. Boucher
Councillor S. Cameron
Councillor L. Chisholm
Councillor W. Cormier
Councillor D. MacInnis
Councillor J. MacPherson

Also Present

CAO S. Feist
D. Halfpenny, Recording Secretary
S. Scannell, Special Projects Coordinator

S. Rector, Director of Corporate Services
Delegates
D. Smith, Intelivote

Media

Call to Order

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

Approval of Agenda

It was "Moved and Seconded to approve the Agenda." Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

It was "Moved and Seconded to approve the Minutes of the Council meetings held on March 29, 2016 (In Camera), and March 29, 2016 (Regular Council) as circulated." Motion Carried.

Presentation

- Mr. D. Smith; Intelivote
D. Smith provided Council with an in depth presentation on electronic voting covering all aspects of the voting process.

Mayor C. Chisholm thanked D. Smith for his excellent presentation and opened the floor for questions.

In a response to a query from Mayor C. Chisholm, D. Smith provided an overview on the telephone voting process.

D. Smith responded to questions on the cost of electronic voting, concerns for those that may not have an internet connection, cellphone or computer, and for seniors using electronic voting. Councillor D. MacInnis questioned the cost, per vote.

Members of the public expressed concerns that paper ballots would be eliminated and questioned what would happen if the internet went down. Much discussion took place.

It was," Moved and Seconded that the 2016 Election held in the Town of Antigonish maintain paper ballots along with electronic voting during advance polls and on election day." Motion Carried

Business from Minutes

- Sesquicentennial Celebrations

Mayor C. Chisholm reported that he had received a response from The Victoria Children's Choir concerning the Sesquicentennial Celebrations and that the group was finalizing details with the Highland Society to perform at the Concert Under the Stars in 2017.

New Business

- Beautification Committee

Brief discussion took place on the reappointment of A Paon to the Beautification Committee.

It was "Moved and Seconded to approve the reappointment of A. Pond to the Beautification Committee". Motion Carried

- Proclamation; Gaelic Awareness Month

It was "Moved and Seconded that May be proclaimed Gaelic Awareness Month." Motion Carried

Correspondence

- A Fedora; Port Hawkesbury Paper-Tour Invitation

Councillor J. MacPherson noted that Port Hawkesbury Paper is a major employer in the area and that he would recommend a tour of the facility.

Discussion followed. Mayor C. Chisholm indicated he would contact A. Fedora to obtain a list of possible timeslots for the tour.

Staff Reports

- CAO Report

- ACE Cooperative; Grid Tying to Town's Electric Utility

S. Feist advised that other municipalities with Electric utilities have been contacted to identify interest in coordinating efforts to have a study completed to determine the threshold to implement net metering; to research funding opportunities and apply for funding to assist with the study, and ultimately deliver the study and recommendations to address policy and procedure for solar panel green initiatives by August 2016.

- Hiring Process

S. Feist reported that advertising for a new CAO had been placed provincially and across Canada. He noted submissions are to be received by April 22nd. He advised that a hiring Committee had been struck composed of two staff members, the mayor and two council members. An interview schedule will be determined by the hiring committee and he expected that the new CAO would be hired by June.

- Street Fair Closure

S. Feist noted that the Downtown Business Association have requested that the Street Fair be held on the Thursday of Highland Games week and requested that the street be closed from Church Street to College Street.

Brief Discussion followed. It was generally agreed to the street closure as it worked well last year.

- Braemore Bridge

S. Feist noted that the Braemore Bridge replacement is a major project that will require substantial funding. He noted that funding opportunities need to be pursued.

It was “Moved and Seconded that Provincial Capital Assistance Program (PCAP) and any other funding opportunities be pursued for the construction of the Braemore Bridge.” Motion Carried.

- Curb & Gutter Accounts

S. Feist noted it had been determined that there were a number of Curb & Gutter Accounts that remain outstanding.

It was “Moved and Seconded that Curb & Gutter Accounts be provided 20 calendar days to pay off the original bill to settle the account.” Motion Carried.

- Special Project Coordinators Report

- Renaming of Street

Special Project Coordinator, S. Scannell reported that it had been agreed by Council that the street be renamed and the vacant lot developed as a trail.

Councillor L. Chisholm noted that a couple of residents were seeking to have the street be renamed Hillside Drive Extension. Councillor J. MacPherson confirmed he had also been contacted by residents that wanted the street to be renamed Hillside Drive Extension.

Councillor D. MacInnis suggested that residents of the street that are affected should be invited to be a part of the renaming process.

Mayor C. Chisholm, Deputy Mayor L. Boucher, Councillor W. Cormier and Councillor S. Cameron all agreed that all nine houses should receive a letter requesting input into the naming of the street and that matter of renaming will be deferred until the May Council meeting.

- Director of Corporate Services Report

Shelly Rector, Director of Corporate Services presented her report. She requested that on May 2nd a meeting be held with Council concerning General Governance, and on May 9th a meeting regarding the Electric and Water Utilities. She noted the meetings would start at 4:30 and run for approximately two hours.

It was “Moved and Seconded that the Corporate Service report be accepted as presented.” Motion Carried.

- Engineer and Municipal Services Director Report

It was suggested that with Braemore Bridge as the major capital focus, that perhaps more patching than paving could be considered for this year.

CAO, S. Feist advised that the street sweeper has been scheduled for use to clean areas of St. FX in preparation for convocation. He noted that line painting has been difficult to schedule due to weather.

It was “Moved and Seconded that the Engineer and Municipal Services Report be accepted as presented.” Motion Carried.

- Planning, Building Inspection, Fire and Safety Officers Reports

It was noted that renewable energy strategy research is ongoing, and that B. Nheiley attended the Walkability Workshop on April 18, 2016.

It was “Moved and Seconded that Planning, Building Inspection, Fire and Safety Officers Reports be accepted as presented.” Motion Carried.

- Recreational Director Report

Discussion took place on grant applications received.

Councillor S. Cameron noted that funding for Canada Day from Heritage Canada is the amount of \$5000. He reported that this year’s Canada Day entertainment will feature ‘Jug in Hand’.

CAO, S. Feist advised that the Columbus Field archway has been deconstructed due to safety issues. He noted it was unclear as to when or if the archway would be reassembled at Columbus Field. As it was initially funded by ARRAS Branch 59 Royal Canadian Legion, they would be the ones to decide whether to reconstruct the archway.

Committee Reports

- Beautification Committee Report

Beautification Committee Chair, Councillor L. Chisolm noted that the Beautification Committee members have been reappointed as no new membership applications were received. She said with the reappointment of A. Pond the committee is at full membership. She said that letters have gone out to businesses concerning the Summer Flower Basket Program.

- Waste Management Committee Report

Waste Management Committee Chair, Councillor J. MacPherson reported that Trading Treasures has been scheduled for April 22nd, he noted the location has changed to 66 West Street (former Sears Building). He said this is a great location as it is close to the St. FX students.

Council was advised that the Bulky Waste Pick Up will take place on May 2,3 & 4 for those who receive residential waste collection within the Town.

Councillor J. MacPherson encouraged all Council and staff to attend a Town Clean Up on April 23 from 8 a.m. until 10 am.

- Recreation Committee Report

The Chair of the Recreation Committee, Deputy Mayor L Boucher commended the efforts of E. Kehoe, Active Living Coordinator and T. Cameron, Recreational Director, as they have built strong partnerships and long term relationships in the Community. She noted that their efforts extend far beyond workplace wellness within the Town Hall and that in general they are doing an excellent job in improving health and wellness and changing the culture of active living.

Deputy Mayor, L. Boucher reported she had welcomed participants to the “Planning Walkable Communities Workshop,” which took place April 18, from 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. at the Millennium

Center. She noted that engineers, planners, recreational professions and others had attended the workshop. It was considered a very successful event with 20 to 25 people in attendance.

Discussion took place concerning the Dr. J.J. Carroll Awards disbursement.

It was "Moved and Seconded that the Dr. J.J. Carroll Awards be disbursed as follows: Antigonish Town Recreation for Aquatics Instruction training \$1500; Antigonish Town Recreation for Wee Lads and Lassies Track and Field Event \$1500; PHAST Swim Club \$1000, and Antigonish Track and Field Club \$9800." Motion Carried.

- Planning Advisory Committee

The Chair of the Planning Advisory Committee, Councillor W. Cormier said the five (5) new committee members have joined the PAC Committee and have attended their first meeting.

It was " Moved and seconded to accept the Committee Reports as presented". Motion Carried.

With there being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.