

**June 17, 2019
Town Council Chambers
Regular Council Meeting**

Present

Mayor L. Boucher
Deputy Mayor MacInnis
Councillor W. Cormier
Councillor M. Farrell
Councillor A. Murray
Councillor J. MacPherson
Councillor D. Roberts

Also Present

CAO J. Lawrence
D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk
L. Basinger, Strategic Initiatives Coordinator

Media

Members of the public

Call to Order

Mayor L. Boucher called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

Approval of Agenda

“It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Agenda with one addition.” Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

“It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Minutes of the Special Council Meeting of May 21, 2019 and Regular Council Meeting of May 27, 2019 as presented.” Motion carried.

Development Agreement – 52 Victoria Street – Second Reading

Mayor L. Boucher provided comment noting that Council held a public hearing on a proposed development agreement for 52 Victoria Street the previous week and heard from a number of people in attendance. She stated she hoped that Council had taken the opportunity to consider the matter.

“It was Moved and Seconded to give second and final reading to the Development Agreement between the Town of Antigonish and the owner of 52 Victoria Street.”

Mayor L. Boucher called on Council to provide their comments. Individual comments were provided by various Councillors who indicated they would be voting in favor of the development agreement.

Councillor J. MacPherson provided brief comment during which he raised the issue of floodplains.

J. Bain spoke to the floodplain issue noting there were two floodplains impacting the property, the 1:20 year and 1:100 year, and expanded on what the ratio meant and how it might impact development, noting the 1:20 year is far less restrictive than the 1:100 year model.

Councillor J. MacPherson indicated he would be voting against the proposed development agreement.

Councillor W. Cormier provided comments on parking, zoning and appealing a decision of the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board, noting he would be voting against the proposal.

Mayor L. Boucher provided final comments noting the matter deserved an explanation of her thoughts. She provided her views on the matter, noting the UARB suggested the Town work toward a development agreement, and spoke to the items agreed to in the development agreement, along with responding to comments made by the public at the previous public hearing. Mayor L. Boucher closed her comments by indicating that she would be voting in favor of the development.

A member of the public began to speak out of turn at which time Mayor L. Boucher declared a five-minute recess.

At 6:29 PM Mayor L. Boucher called the meeting back to order.

Councillor J. MacPherson spoke briefly to the issue of a fence.

(“It was Moved and Seconded to give second and final reading to the Development Agreement between the Town of Antigonish and the owner of 52 Victoria Street.)

Mayor L. Boucher called for the Question with the majority of Council voting in favor of the Town entering the proposed development agreement with the exception of Councillors J. MacPherson and W. Cormier who voted nay.” Motion carried.

Presentations

- Rosalyn Sampson Re: Special Olympics (Toronto)

Mayor L. Boucher noted that although she had invited Ms. Sampson to the meeting this evening, she did not show up.

- St. James United Church Social Justice Committee (M. Ashby, A Camozzi)

Mayor L. Boucher called on M. Ashby and (A. Camozzi via Skype) to make their presentation. It was noted a hand-out was previously distributed.

M. Ashby and A. Camozzi were welcomed to the Council meeting. Ms. M. Ashby referred to a petition previously brought to Council in 2018. She spoke to various points of accessibility, noting that some of Council had taken on wheelchairs for a few hours last year.

M. Ashby spoke to Ms. Camozzi’s past involvement and spoke to J. Post being available to Council for advice. Disability statistics in Nova Scotia were presented.

Ms. M. Ashby spoke specifically to the Town’s legal responsibility, and a pilot project in the Town of Wolfville and suggested the Town and County have a joint Accessibility Committee.

She noted the three top items they would like to see the Town address include: transportation, access to downtown businesses and lack of enforcement of by-laws (particularly as they relate to building development).

At 6:49 PM M. Ashby concluded her presentation.

A question and answer session followed. Councillor J. MacPherson spoke to the issue of accessible parking spaces with A. Camozzi noting the lack of blue accessible parking spaces. Councillor J. MacPherson stated that Antigonish Community Transit are looking at a new bus with some accessible seating.

Ms. A. Camozzi spoke to accessibility overall.

Brief discussion took place on recent renovations to a downtown business.

Mayor L. Boucher addressed the delegates, noting the Town is now looking at all infrastructure through an accessible lens and identified a number of items that have been done or are being worked on, and some matters that the Town could work toward.

Ms. A. Camozzi strongly suggested that town staff have 'reachability' training.

Deputy Mayor D. MacInnis confirmed that he had travelled to Wolfville with Mayor L. Boucher and noted they had brought Wolfville's plan back with them, that it would be shared at the next Accessibility Committee and invited them to attend the next Accessibility meeting.

- Net Metering (M. Barkhouse)

M. Barkhouse took to the podium to provide Council with an update on net metering.

M. Barkhouse spoke to net metering noting that it benefits some people more than others and noted that a net metering policy would state that if you have solar on your house and make more energy than you consume, the Town purchases it at the rate a person would pay as a resident, but the Town can purchase electricity much cheaper through Nova Scotia Power Incorporated (NSPI) or Alternative Resource Energy Authority (AREA).

M. Barkhouse then presented an example of a standard electric customer versus a net metering customer, noting the Town Electric Utility loses money as a result of net metering that this must be made up.

CAO J. Lawrence provided comment which Councillor W. Cormier responded to.

M. Barkhouse noted that goal is to balance green energy without pushing costs onto other customers. She noted the Town is looking at a solar garden, in which anyone could invest, and supply energy to the Antigonish Electric Utility, with no burden of cost to one customer class. She further stated that she is still waiting for next steps with funding coming through provincial and federal applications.

CAO J. Lawrence spoke briefly to AREA and provided comment as to how what is being looked into now would be more beneficial to customers overall.

M. Barkhouse then responded to comments from Council.

- Purchasing Project (L. Basinger)

L. Basinger took to the podium to provide Council with an overview of her report on a proposed purchasing policy that would form part of the Town's procurement policy.

She then went through the proposed steps that would see the Town move from a paper-based program to digital. She noted the benefits that could be derived moving to digital platform. It was noted that there are approximately 30 various platforms available that would have to be narrowed down.

L. Basinger stated that implementing a new purchasing system will modernize the purchasing process, allow staff to spend less time on menial tasks, and provide staff more capacity to focus on other work.

L. Basinger noted she is currently looking at platforms that run in the range of \$3-12,000. and next steps.

A question and answer session followed.

Business from the Minutes

- Low Income Property Tax Reduction

Councillor D. Roberts questioned whether information had gone out to make residents more aware of the program. Brief discussion took place.

New Business

- Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Depot (J. Lawrence)

CAO J. Lawrence provided Council with an update from the previous Joint Council meeting noting that the County would be moving forward with adding a permanent HHW depot to their existing landfill facility in the form of a Sea Can.

Councillor J. MacPherson spoke to the number of Town residents that would benefit from the program.

Councillor W. Cormier questioned whether the annual drop off would continue, with Councillor J. MacPherson stating he would look into the matter further.

CAO J. Lawrence responded to a query from Councillor D. Roberts and expanded on the reasons for the program to be housed at the Beech Hill Landfill site.

Correspondence

- Antigonish Affordable Housing Society (AAHS)

Mayor L. Boucher noted that Council has been invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the AAHS.

- Letter of Support for L'Arche

Mayor L. Boucher noted that L'Arche has applied for funding to bring all of their programs under one roof and is looking for a letter of support to accompany a grant application.

"It was Moved and Seconded to provide a letter of support for L'Arche." Motion carried.

Councillor J. MacPherson questioned the status of the backflow prevention program. CAO J. Lawrence provided an update noting four or five has still not complied, but most have.

Brief discussion took place on the accessible ballfield, full funding for the skatepark, finalizing budget and design for the skatepark with an anticipated start date of the last week of July. CAO J. Lawrence commended the benefits of working together and partnerships.

K. Proctor responded to a query from Council and noted the Main/Hawthorne Street intersection, when complete, would operate similar to the one at James/West Streets.

Councillor D. Roberts expressed gratitude on behalf of her landlord and other tenants for the new intersection.

Staff Reports

- CAO Report

Brief discussion took place.

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

Committee Reports

- Fire Committee

Councillor W. Cormier stated he had nothing to report.

- Solid Waste Management

Councillor J. MacPherson commended Engineers from Nova Scotia Power who recently carried out a clean up of the Brierly Brook.

Councillor J. MacPherson put forth the following motion:

“It was Moved and Seconded that residents be permitted to place one paper leaf & yard waste bag curbside on green bin collection day as supported by Eastern Sanitation Limited.” Motion carried.

- Beautification & Land Rehabilitation

Councillor A. Murray noted no Beautification meeting was held, flowers should be going up some time this week (bridges and planter boxes), and that all flowers should be up by the end of next week

- Canada Day

Councillor A. Murray noted that he is the Chair for Canada Day and everything is progressing well.

- Antigonish 55+ Games

Councillor D. Roberts reported on the 55+ Games, noting over 400 registrations have been received, and that the deadline to register is July 1st. She noted there is still some outstanding sponsorship, and that Kent had sponsored a barbecue raising approximately \$450. She thanked those who supported the cause. Councillor D. Roberts noted a fundraising breakfast upcoming being sponsored by the Antigonish Farmers Market with the funds raised to be split between the 55+ Games and fundraising for a new farmers market.

- Accessibility Committee

Deputy Mayor D. MacInnis noted an Accessibility meeting is scheduled for next Monday, and that he had travelled with Mayor L. Boucher to Wolfville to discuss their accessibility plan as they had been a pilot project and noted the Town will look at their plans.

- Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee (JOHSC)

Deputy Mayor D. MacInnis put forth the following motion:

“That the Occupational Health and Safety Program be endorsed subject to legal review as recommended by the Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee.” Motion carried.

- Recreation Committee

Councillor M. Farrell noted that the Recreation Committee had met and discussed the skatepark and accessible ballfield. She spoke to a new fun fit pass partnership between various stakeholders which is available through the library, and similar to a book, can be taken out for a two-week period.

- Planning Advisory Committee

Mayor L. Boucher provided an update on planning matters noting a public hearing was recently held and that Council had voted in favor of the proposed development agreement. She noted comments on Municipal Planning Strategy were due at the end of last week and that WSP is to present another draft, and that they will be meeting with them some time this week.

With there being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:59 PM