

**Regular Council
December 16, 2019
Town Council Chambers**

Present

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

Also Present

CAO J. Lawrence
D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk

K. Proctor, Town Engineer
S. Scannell, Community Development Director
K. Gorman, Communications
L. Basinger, Strategic Initiatives
E. Stephenson, Active Living Coordinator

Media
Delegates

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 Regular and In Camera meetings of November 18th, 2019 and Special meeting of Council held on December 2nd, 2019." Motion carried.

Presentations

- Equipment Loan Program (E. Stephenson)

E. Stephenson, Active Living Coordinator, was in attendance to review a proposal for changes to the current equipment loan program and potential partners.

E. Stephenson provided Council with background details on the proposal, noting rentals and loans have been ongoing for years. She then spoke to improved hours (including weekends), equipment selection and location. She noted the proposal would see the Town's ski loan program and the County's skate loan program become more effective.

Following discussion with County staff, the matter was brought to St. FX. E. Stephenson noted both the County and St. FX are on board and ready to go with the proposed rental program. Council was advised on the location of the equipment on campus.

The CAO noted this would offer one stop shopping and improved availability and hours. He further noted this would be a two-year pilot project.

Brief discussion took place. Council provided comment on the proposal.

It was generally agreed to move forward with the proposed changes to the Equipment Loan Program.

- Lodging Room By-law (L. Basinger)
L. Basinger was in attendance to provide an overview of a proposed Lodging Room By-law.

It was noted that this By-law had been in the works for a long period of time and was finally coming to fruition. She noted she had worked with others on this project.

Council was provided with a brief history of the By-law.

Council was advised that lodging home owners would have to complete a one-time registration, within 6 months of the by-law coming into effect, and must also be compliant with Town By-laws, fire safety regulations, Nova Scotia Building Code regulations and the National Building Code.

Implementation of the By-law would see a homeowner submit an application form and \$200., the application would be reviewed, and if complete, would trigger a building inspection.

Council was advised on the specific information to be submitted.

L. Basinger stated that enforcement would stay with Community Development, with enforcement between building inspection and by-law enforcement staff. She noted the monitoring and tracking of the bylaw will be complaint based, with a three-tier fine system.

L. Basinger responded to queries from Council. It was suggested that the Antigonish Landlord Association be contacted and made aware of the proposed by-law.

Mayor L. Boucher spoke briefly to the effort and research that has been put into this by-law and thanked staff for their efforts.

“It was Moved and Seconded to give First Reading and set a public hearing prior to the next Council meeting, 6:00 PM just prior to regular January Council meeting.” Motion carried

- G. Kell; World Arm Wrestling Championship
Mayor L. Boucher acknowledged G. Kell who recently returned from the World Armchair Championships in Poland and shared his success with Council.

A photo opportunity took place.

- Dog Park Site Selection (S. Scannell)
S. Scannell was present to provide details on a proposed dog park site. It was noted that Council has had this matter on their agenda for quite some time.

S. Scannell noted Council allocated \$10,000 for the construction of a dog park in Town. At that time no location had been selected. However, staff have been working since this past June to identify possible locations.

S. Scannell advised on the difficulty in finding a suitable site due to size, location and compatibility requirements. He noted partnerships and costs were also added as criteria. He further noted that the County had indicated a willingness to partner with the Town on this project.

S. Scannell noted the site selected is to the rear of the Club 60 building and is on Town-owned land that is utilized by the Highland Society during the Highland Games.

S. Scannell provided details on a meeting with Highland Society Representatives and noted they were able to work out a mutually beneficial agreement.

S. Scannell provided details on the other site options.

Council was advised that a budget is \$10,000, was put in place for this year, but staff will have to look at the cost of fencing.

Mayor L. Boucher thanked S. Scannell for his presentation. Council provided their comments on the proposed project.

It was generally agreed that staff move forward with the dog park.

Business from Minutes

- Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee Policy Amendment
Chair of the Solid Waste Management Committee, Councillor J. MacPherson noted that the Solid Waste Committee wished to add a lay person to the Committee, however to do this required the Advisory Committee Policy to be amended, as presented.

“It was Moved and Seconded that the Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee Policy be amended to include a person from the community.” Motion carried.

It was noted that appointments to advisory committees are made in April of each year and that advertising for any required appointments would be done in February or March.

CAO J. Lawrence provided clarification on the make-up of the various advisory committees.

Councillor J. MacPherson thanked Council for approving their request.

New Business

- Town Hall Holiday Closing Hours
CAO J. Lawrence noted that in keeping with the Town's Standard Operating Procedures Town Hall will close at noon on December 24th and remain closed until January 2, 2020.

- New Year's Levee
Mayor L. Boucher reminded everyone of the New Year's Levee to be held at 12:00 noon January 1st at the Royal Canadian Legion in conjunction with the County of Antigonish and increase funding to \$1,500.00

“It was Moved and Seconded to increase the amount for the annual levee to \$1,500.00.” Motion carried.

- Council Chambers/Mayor’s Office Improvements

CAO J. Lawrence provided some detail on improvements that are ongoing and improvements currently proposed.

Brief discussion took place on the need for improvements to both the Council Chamber and office of the Mayor.

“It was Moved and Seconded that \$25,000 out of the projected surplus go toward improvements to Council Chambers and office of the Mayor.” Motion carried.

- Alternative Resource Energy Authority (AREA) Intermunicipal Service Agreement

Brief discussion took place with CAO J. Lawrence providing comment on the success of AREA to date, as well as proposed new initiatives. He noted the AREA Agreement needs to be updated to recognize changes.

L. Basinger spoke to two changes (1) requirements for a quorum, and (2) a Schedule A (more possible funding mechanisms).

“It was Moved and Seconded to approve amendments to the Alternative Resource Energy Authority Intermunicipal Service Agreement as presented.” Motion carried.

- Destination Development Coordinator (Part-time) Position

S. Scannell took to the podium to provide a brief overview of the proposed part-time position. He noted a presentation was previously made In Camera to discuss possible organizational changes that may take place, and the opportunities that will come with the new Municipal Planning Strategy and events/attraction moving forward.

S. Scannell reviewed some of the policy goals from the MPS that speak to the proposed position as well as those with special events planning and coordination.

Council was advised that the options include the status quo or to hire a part-time destination development coordinator (recommended). He then reviewed some of the events that would also be key to this position.

Proposed organizational changes were then presented (events /placemaking will still have a great deal of cross-over i.e. rec would supply garbage cans etc.) and employment details were provided.

S. Scannell requested Council to consider the position to start in January in order to begin to prepare. Council was advised that approximately \$6,200 would be the cost prior to the next fiscal year.

S. Scannell addressed questions from Council.

“It was Moved and Seconded that Council approve the hiring of a part-time Destination Development Coordinator beginning January 2020 to allow adequate time for project planning for the upcoming season as per the details provided.” Motion carried.

- Electronic Ticketing

S. Scannell noted he is seeking a motion to improve case management and enforcement capacity for By-law Enforcement staff and their enforcement partners.

The CAO noted that the initial costs would come out of this years' surplus budget

"It was Moved and Seconded that Council move forward with the proposed electronic ticketing program as presented with a start-up cost of \$52,000 and approximately \$9,600 in annual costs." Motion carried.

Correspondence

- Zone 7 African Cultural Heritage Awareness Association Committee Flag Raising Request
Mayor L. Boucher read aloud a portion of the correspondence noting the organization is requesting the African flag fly for the month of February 2020.

"It was Moved and Seconded that the African flag be flown during the month of February 2020." Motion carried.

- L'Arche Antigonish

Mayor L. Boucher spoke to the value of the L'Arche program and presented a thank you card that was received noting the L'Arche program has been in existence for 50 years and 40 of those years in our community.

- Black Educators Association

Mayor L. Boucher noted the CAO had received correspondence requesting financial support for the Regional Educators Program Provincial Spelling BEE.

Brief discussion took place.

"It was Moved and Seconded that \$200.00 be provided to the Black Educators Association to support their Provincial Spelling BEE and that these." Motion carried.

"It was Moved and Seconded that \$25,000 out of projected surplus toward improvements to Council Chambers and office of the Mayor." Motion carried.

Staff Reports

- CAO Report

CAO J. Lawrence called for any questions from the CAO report.

Councillor W. Cormier provided positive comment on the new piece of snow removal equipment. Town Engineer, K. Proctor provided details on the equipment and its operation.

CAO J. Lawrence noted it is key to keep the streets clear as businesses approach their busiest time of year.

- **Farmer's Market**

CAO J. Lawrence noted he had a call from a Board Member of the Farmers' Market requesting funds the Town earmarked for the project be released.

Brief discussion took place.

"It was Moved and Seconded to release \$150,000 to the Farmers' Market." Motion carried.

- **NB Power – Request for Guarantee**

CAO J. Lawrence provided Council with details on a request from NB Power for a guarantee from the Town.

"It was Moved that the Town provide NB Power with a guarantee of payment on the portions of any wholesale electricity imported in 2020 on behalf of the Town of Antigonish." Motion carried.

- **Bullfrog Power**

CAO J. Lawrence provided details on the Alternative Resource Energy Authority's (AREAs) move to importing power stating he would like to have the credits to go the Town rather than the Electric Utility.

"It was Moved and Seconded that beginning in 2020 Bullfrog Power credits flow to the Town of Antigonish instead of the Town of Antigonish Electric Utility. Motion carried.

It was noted this matter will have to go to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board.

Committee Reports

- **Recreation**

Deputy Mayor M. Farrell spoke to the success of the tree lighting and parade, noting enhanced security was great, and thanked all staff for their assistance. She noted the Santa Shuffle was also deemed a great success,

Council was advised that the Volunteer of the Year and Junior Volunteer of the Year nominations are open until the end of January.

- **Accessibility Committee**

Councillor D. MacInnis noted that the Accessibility Committee had met, and had a brief presentation on Alzheimers disease, for which the Committee will gather further information and work to try to incorporate into the Town's Accessibility Plan.

Councillor D. MacInnis noted on behalf of Mayor L. Boucher, he met with the Warden and attended a doctor recruitment meeting.

- **Police & License Committee**

Councillor D. Roberts reported on details from the previous Police & License meeting including parades and marches and that the RCMP & By-law Enforcement Staff had put a guide together for those who would be organizing parades.

“It was Moved and Seconded that Council consider including money in the 20/21 fiscal year budget to carry out a parking study to understand the issues regarding parking and recommend a solution in collaboration with efforts being made by St. FX University regarding parking.” Motion carried.

Mayor L. Boucher noted the matter of crosswalk paint has come up before and spoke to where she had observed that lit crosswalks regular lines were painted, however in mid blocks, wide zebra markings were painted as well as single lines in intersections.

Councillor A. Murray questioned the Town Engineer on the type of paint currently used and questioned if there is another option. The Town Engineer spoke to an alternative noting it would be approximately 10 times the cost of the regular paint.

CAO J. Lawrence noted this will be investigated and brought back to Council.

“It was Moved and Seconded to recommend to Council to look at the possibility of transverse paint and a cost analysis for the commercial areas of Town in the mid-block area.” Motion carried.

“It was recommended to include \$1500 be included in the upcoming budget for crosswalk flags and buckets. Motion defeated.

“It was Moved and Seconded that Council consider including 1,500 in the upcoming budget for flags and buckets for crosswalks.” Motion carried.

Councillor D. Roberts read a portion of correspondence received from the president of 55+ provincial games office.

Councillor D. Roberts spoke briefly about the new figurines and the manger.

Councillor W. Cormier provided comment on the crosswalk at the top of Hawthorne Street and questioned whether there would be additional light installations. It was noted this project came from the Council discretionary fund and was to be tried once initially.

Brief discussion took place on the placement and arrangement of the nativity scene.

- Beautification

Councillor A. Murray noted the Committee did not meet in December but will meet in January. He noted the Christmas décor has now been installed and has received very positive comments.

Councillor A. Murray noted the Committee would likely put forth a motion to include funding for additional décor next year.

- Waste Management Committee

Councillor J. MacPherson provided details from the last Waste Management meeting noting the Accounting Manager for GFL and J. Dee had attended the meeting.

- Fire Committee

Councillor W. Cormier indicated he had nothing to report.

- Planning Advisory Committee

Mayor L. Boucher noted that a special meeting of Council/public hearing will be held later this week to consider a development agreement between the Town and Riavan Investments and to give First Reading for the new Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use Bylaw.

Mayor L. Boucher noted the Town had won appeal to the Utility and Review Board submitted by Mr. & Mrs. J. Monkman.

CAO J. Lawrence spoke to a presentation and partnership between the Town, County and St. FX University to hire a full time Emergency Management Coordinator, with a shared cost of \$9,000 annually. He further stated it is staffs recommend to support the partnership.

“It was Moved and Seconded to support a partnership between the Town, County and St. FX University for a cost-shared full-time position for an Emergency Management Coordinator at a cost of \$9,000. annually.” Motion carried.

With there being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:49 PM.