

**Regular Council  
February 18, 2020  
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  
S. Scannell, Community Development  
K. Gorman, Communications  
L. Basinger, Strategic Initiatives  
B. Luciano, Corporate Services  
K. Proctor, P. Eng., Town Engineer

Media

**Call to Order**

Mayor L. Boucher called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

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

“It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Regular and In Camera Minutes of January 20, 2020, Special In Camera Minutes of February 12, 2020, and Public Hearing Minutes of February 13, 2020.” Motion carried.

**Presentations**

- Velofix Nova Scotia – Adrenaline Antigonish (T. Gorman)  
Mayor L. Boucher welcomed Todd Gorman (Adrenaline Antigonish) and Chandra Gavin (Giant Bluefin Tuna Charters) and Dale Stewart (Redline Equipment)

C. Gavin provided information on an upcoming Atlantic Outdoor Sports and RV Show and noted they were asked to be represented and were encouraged to bring together other ‘adrenaline type’ groups. He noted a group will come together under one large space to push the Antigonish area.

Council was advised that local businesses will be in attendance, each with individual signage, however they would like to ask for assistance for additional signage to promote the group.

It was noted that the signage would be generic Adrenaline Antigonish with the intent of hanging it above the table.

Details were provided on the types of businesses that typically attend noting that attendance usually hits around 20,000.

T. Gorman noted they began a hashtag #adrenalineantigonish and will also eventually be promoting all of those involved through Instagram, Facebook, a website, digital media, etc.

C. Gavin provided details on a quote from local graphic designer for two flags and overhead banner at a cost of \$771.27.

At 6:14 PM the group concluded their presentation and a question and answer session followed.

Mayor L. Boucher congratulated the group on their efforts in working together and Councillors provided comment.

“It was Moved and Seconded that Town Council support the request for financial assistance as requested from their discretionary funds.” Motion carried.

- Community Sport Collaboration (S. Spencer)

Moving sport development forward together

S. Spencer introduced herself and E. Spencer and noted she would be speaking to the Antigonish Community Sport Hub and requesting \$15,000 to support continued development of the sport hub.

Council was provided details on the focus of the group and the support to competitive sport, noting there is a long, strong history of professional development.

S. Spencer spoke to the multi-sport program that began a few years ago and stated they are now taking what they learned and moving it forward, from siloed individuals to a community supported program.

Council was provided with details on leading and supporting partners, key community members and provincial sporting groups.

S. Spencer's provided details from her previous presentation and on where they are now.

S. Spencer spoke on the 10 shared deliverables, noting they are easy to difficult, both within the community and provincially, and spoke to alignments being made nationally, provincially and locally.

E. Stephenson circulated information to Council and took to the podium. She noted this program aligns perfectly with the four (4) of the goals contained within the Town's Physical Activity Strategy and expanded on the details.

She noted that most sporting organization are run by volunteers and spoke to providing support to keep them from burnout.

Details on the four (4) sport hub focuses were briefly reviewed.

At 6:36 PM Ms. Spencer's presentation concluded and a question and answer session followed.

S. Spencer responded to questions from Council.

Mayor L. Boucher provided positive comment to S. Spencer and congratulated her on her efforts to date.

Mayor L. Boucher noted the request would fall under the Community Development budget and would be discussed during budget deliberations.

- Media and Communications (K. Gorman)
  - Policies to be Repealed
  - Report to Council – Communications Policy Changes
  - Human Resources Manual Amendment
  - Town of Antigonish Media Communication and Information Policy

K. Gorman took to the podium and noted the proposed changes derived from a need to update Town policies to reflect our internal structures (i.e. the addition of a communication and marketing officer position).

Council was provided details on the proposed changes including:

- A new Communications, Media & Information Policy, which would replace the Town's existing Media and Communications Policy and Media and Written Information Policy; and
- Amending the Town's Human Resource Manual to include Social Media Administration & Usage guidelines.

K. Gorman noted the purpose of the new Media Communication and Information Policy is to ensure regular, timely information to the public and she expanded on the details.

Council was advised the updated policy provides clear identification of roles and responsibilities.

It was noted that the Social Media proposed amendment is to address internal and external expectations of town staff related to the use of social media.

K. Gorman noted the changes would also permit assigning approved designates who can regularly post on the Town's social media and that staff and community members can submit content ideas and if deemed appropriate will be shared through the appropriate channels.

Council was advised that staff must act in accordance with code of conduct when posting including on personal accounts and that staff are not expected to provide customer service while not at work.

"It was Moved and Seconded to repeal the existing Media and Communications Policy and Media and Written Information Policy." Motion carried.

"It was moved and seconded to accept the new Communications, Media and Information Policy." Motion carried.

"It was Moved and Seconded to accept an amendment to the Town's Human Resource Manual to include Social Media Administration & Usage to the Employee Conduct Section (Section 14-1)." Motion carried.

Mayor L. Boucher suggested that a best practices policy be put in place for Council.

At 6:53 PM K. Gorman concluded her presentation.

### **Business from Minutes**

- Quit Claim Deed; Lands Adjacent 195 Main Street, Antigonish  
CAO J. Lawrence advised that the quit claim deed had been obtained by the Town and turned over to the developer's solicitor for follow-up.

### **New Business**

- Proposed Amendment to Development Agreement Between the Town of Antigonish and Atlantic Crombie REIT (Sobeys) for the Construction of a 2,200 Square Foot Quick Serve Restaurant Addition (PID# 1101295971)

Mr. J. Bain noted he would provide a quick presentation on the proposed amendment, and that there hasn't been a public hearing, and that the matter didn't go to PAC as the agreement allows for amendments to non-substantive amendments.

J. Bain presented a map outlining the zoning (C2- local commercial) which covers approximately 1.2 hectares and contains some floodway land.

A site view was presented for the proposed expansion.

J. Bain provided comments from the Municipal Government Act with respect to matters which are considered 'not substantive' as well as when a public hearing is not required in amending a development agreement.

Council was provided details on four (4) matters that could be considered 'non-substantive' in the Agreement.

A plan of the proposed addition was presented, as well as front, side and rear elevations.

J. Bain noted that the intent of the development agreement is found in the preamble. He further noted that although the 'spirit' of the agreement is not spelled out, he did discuss the matter of the exterior finish with the developers and was assured that Crombie REIT only uses first class finishes.

J. Bain provided Council with staffs' conclusion and recommendation.

"It was Moved and Seconded to discharge the existing development agreement between the Town and the Antigonish Mall." Motion carried.

"It was Moved and Seconded to approve a new development agreement as amended and recommended by staff." Motion carried.

- Second and Final Reading Re: Public Hearing of February 13, 2020 Re: Amendments to the Land Use By-law and Municipal Planning Strategy

"It was Moved and Seconded to give Second and Final Reading to amendments to the Land Use By-law and Municipal Planning Strategy." Motion carried.

- Outstanding Uncollectable Electric/Water Accounts to be Written Off

B. Luciano took to the podium and provided details on electric/water accounts that have been deemed uncollectable.

Council was advised that the cost of the accounts to be written off is \$76,781.95 in total. It was noted that the write-off is a combination of bankruptcies, some small accounts and some significant accounts.

B. Luciano responded to questions from Council,

“It was Moved and Seconded to approve the list of uncollectable electric/water accounts to be written off as presented.” Motion carried.

- Volunteer(s) of the Year

Council was requested to submit their nominations by noon tomorrow.

- Funding Consideration for Juex de L’Acadia Re: December 2019 Presentation to Joint Council

Mayor L. Boucher noted that a presentation was made at a previous joint council meeting and noted the economic benefit that an event such as this would bring to our area. She noted that the official ask was for \$10,000.

Brief discussion ensued.

“It was Moved and Seconded that \$5,000.00 be approved from Council’s discretionary funds for the 2020 Juex de L’Acadia Summer Games.” Motion carried.

- FOCUS

Mayor L. Boucher noted she has been involved for a while now as an organizer with FOCUS, a group which encourages females to consider becoming involved with politics. She noted there are more females getting involved as leaders, and that 40% representation is when you have a voice that can be heard. She outlined those involved and the areas covered. She further detailed the male versus female numbers in the general area and provided additional details.

Council was advised that Mayor L. Boucher she received a letter that encouraged each municipal unit involved to sponsor a space for two (2) women at a cost of \$250.00 per person.

“It was Moved and Seconded to support the request to sponsor spaces for two (2) women to attend the event at a cost of \$500.00 from Council’s discretionary funding.” Motion carried.

Mayor L. Boucher noted the Committee would pick who would attend, and that five (5) municipalities and two first nations that have agreed to sponsorship thus far.

Deputy Mayor M. Farrell commended the Mayor for bringing this matter forward and for being recognized for doing so. and spoke to the benefit of such a program.

### **Correspondence**

- RK MacDonald Nursing Home – Request to Reappoint Members to Board

“It was Moved and Seconded to re-appoint the individuals outlined in the correspondence from the RK MacDonald Nursing Home Board.” Motion carried.

- Strait Regional Centre for Education

Mayor L. Boucher acknowledged the correspondence recognizing the influence that international students have on our community.

Councillor D. MacInnis suggested that perhaps they invite some international students to a Council meeting

### **CAO Report**

CAO provided comment on a new format for the monthly reports.

Councillor A. Murray provided comment and suggested that a light be installed in the area of Sydney Street. CAO noted that the possibility of a camera in the area, which would require consideration to lighting.

Brief discussion took place.

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

### **Committee Reports**

- Fire Committee

Councillor W. Cormier indicated he had nothing to report.

- Solid Waste Management Committee

Councillor J. MacPherson provided Council with details on an upcoming ‘butt blitz’ that will be taking place in Town on April 18<sup>th</sup>, noting the program is being done nationally and is being sponsored through the Adopt-A-Highway program.

“It was Moved and Seconded to support the Butt Blitz program as presented.” Motion carried.

Councillor J. MacPherson reported that in response to an ask sisters of Sisters of St. Martha for \$75,000 over five year to support the Antigonish Community Transit Society, they were happy to learn that the Sisters are willing to commit \$100,000 over 5 years, pending charitable status of the Society.

- Beautification Committee

Councillor A. Murray stated he had nothing to report.

- Police & License Committee

Councillor D. Roberts indicated she had nothing to report.

- Accessibility Committee

Councillor D. MacInnis noted an Accessibility meeting is scheduled for next Wednesday, and that the previous meeting was cancelled last one due to lack of quorum.

- Recreation Committee

Deputy Mayor M. Farrell noted the next Recreation meeting is scheduled for March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

- Planning Advisory Committee

Mayor L. Boucher noted that although a meeting was not held this month there is a lot going on. She noted the deed for the sidewalk in front of 195 Main Street had been obtained, another development is poised to take place to the rear of the East Main Street Tim Hortons®. Mayor L. Boucher also spoke to other development and businesses within the Town.

Mayor L. Boucher noted she had been approached to participate in a 'Bowl with Bernie' event and provided further details.

"It was Moved and Seconded to provide a donation of \$200 to 'Bowl with Bernie' to enroll a team in support of L'Arche and the Canadian Association for Community Living (CACL) from Council's discretionary fund." Motion carried.

With there being no further business the meeting was adjourned.