

**Regular Council Meeting
July 15, 2019
Town Council Chambers**

Present

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

Also Present

J. Lawrence, CAO
D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk
M. Barkhouse, Director, Human Services
S. Scannell, Director, Community Development

Absent with Regret

Councillor W. Cormier

Call to Order

Mayor L. Boucher called the meeting to order at 6:07 PM.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

“It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Minutes of the Public Hearing of June 11, 2019, Regular and In Camera meetings of June 17th, 2019, Special and Special In Camera meetings of Jun 24th, 2019 and Email Polls of June 21st, 26th, 28th, and July 10, 2019.” Motion carried.

Business from the Minutes

- Staff Benefits

M. Barkhouse noted that staff recently reviewed most employee benefits and are currently reviewing an additional component of the health/dental plan.

“It was Moved and Seconded that staff do comparatives with other municipal units on the employee benefit and bring the matter back to Council.” Motion carried.

New Business

- Community Grants Policy Amendment

M. Barkhouse took to the podium and noted that the province recently removed the requirement for community grants disbursed by Council to circulate in a newspaper, and as such it should be removed from the current Policy.

“It was Moved and Seconded to remove line 21 from the Community Grants Policy requiring advertisement of grants disbursed in a newspaper.” Motion carried.

It was noted that Community Grants would be advertised on the Town’s website.

- Adoption of Inter-Municipal Agreement to Create the Town and County of Antigonish Arena Association

CAO J. Lawrence provided brief comment.

“It was Moved and Seconded to recognize the Inter-Municipal Agreement to create the Town and County of Antigonish Arena Association.” Motion carried.

- August Town Council Meeting

“It was Moved and Seconded that Council not hold their regular meeting during the month of August.” Motion carried.

It was noted that if necessary, a meeting can be called.

- Museum Grant

CAO J. Lawrence noted that last year, due to miscommunication, the Town gave the Antigonish Heritage Museum less than the County, and that they are now asking for \$1500 to make up for the shortfall from last year.

“It was Moved and Seconded that the Town provide the \$1500 to the Antigonish Heritage Museum as requested.” Motion carried.

Correspondence

- Canadian Association for Community Living (CACL)

Mayor L. Chisholm acknowledged correspondence from the CACL requesting a \$10,000 grant from the 2019-20 Community Grants.

Mayor L. Boucher noted that they did not apply for a grant in the usual manner this year and have now fallen a bit short. She further noted that in the past Council had typically given \$5000-6000.

The CAO noted that there are special circumstances and noted the CACL assumed they would be exempt from property taxes.

“It was Moved and Seconded to approve \$6,000. for the CACL out of Town’s discretionary funds.” Motion carried.

Staff Reports

- CAO Report

Councillor J. MacPherson provided positive comment on the newly revamped Hawthorne/Main Streets intersection.

He further provided comment on work carried out by a staff member.

Committee Reports

- Waste Management Committee

Councillor J. MacPherson indicated the Waste Management Committee had not met.

- Beautification Committee

Councillor A. Murray noted an upcoming walking tour with A. Williams of the Town of Truro to identify the types of trees in the Town and how they are doing. He stated they would be meeting at Maritime Inn at 10:00 AM tomorrow morning.

Mayor L. Boucher questioned the make up of the tree adhoc sub-committee of the Beautification Committee who have an interest in trees and the length of term for the sub-committee. S. Scannell noted it is hard to put a timeline to it, as they are doing an inventory of trees and must work around each other's schedules.

- Police & License Committee

Councillor D. Roberts stated that she would provide a report on the Police & License Committee next month.

- 55+ Games

Council was advised that 717 participants have registered for the 55+ Games, that 26 events are scheduled, and that fundraising is winding down.

Councillor D. Roberts expanded on details from a meeting with the Minister of Municipal Affairs, noting they had applied for a provincial grant but were not successful, and took the opportunity to tell him she wasn't pleased with not receiving funding. She noted they got word 10 days later that they would receive the \$25,000.

It was noted that the Minister will be here for a portion of the 55+ Games. Councillor D. Roberts praised staff for their hard work and assistance.

- Accessibility Committee

Councillor D. MacInnis noted the Accessibility Committee did not meet in July, and that Mr. J. Post from Accessibility Nova Scotia would be in attendance for a meeting scheduled for Thursday, August 8th.

- Recreation Committee

Councillor M. Farrell noted that the Recreation Committee did not meet in July and spoke briefly to the sod turning for all-wheels skate park earlier in the day. She noted the official opening of Sandlot Accessible Ball Field would take place July 20th at 5:30 PM and that the Jays Care Foundation would be having some representation at the opening.

- Planning Advisory Committee

Mayor L. Boucher noted that they are one step closer to finalizing the Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use Bylaw, and that one more meeting will be held with the Planning Advisory Committee, Council, the Eastern District Planning Commission, and WSP.

Mayor L. Boucher noted the many positive and exciting things taking place in the area and thanked Council and staff for their hard work as well as the community for their resources.

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:33 PM.

