

**Regular Council Minutes
November 18, 2019
Town Council Chambers**

Present

Mayor L. Boucher
Deputy Mayor D. MacInnis
Councillor W. Cormier
Councillor M. Farrell
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
M. Barkhouse, Corporate Services
K. Meisner, P. Eng.
K. Gorman, Marketing and Communications
L. Basinger

Media

Members of the Gallery

Call to Order

Mayor L. Boucher called the meeting to order at 6:05 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 October 28, 2019 Regular and In Camera Council Minutes and October 31, 2019 Epoll Minutes.” Motion carried.

Mayor L. Boucher acknowledged R. MacKenzie, a former employee of The Casket, and recognized his fairness to the Town. She noted he is now moving on to other things. R. MacKenzie was presented a small token of appreciation.

Mayor L. Boucher recognized Ms. C. Carroll who was in attendance as part of her course work with NSCC Pictou Campus (Office Administration).

Presentations

- Year-End Projections (M. Barkhouse)

Mayor L. Boucher invited Ms. M. Barkhouse to the podium to provide an overview on the year end projections for this year’s budget.

M. Barkhouse presented the budget versus projections overview noting revenue going up and a decrease in expenses and presented the four areas where changes to the budget are being

seen. She noted the only change (decrease) is in the sewer rates and that the budgeted assessment for residential and commercial came in on target.

Council was then provided with details from Corporate Services, Engineering, Public Works and Environmental Health, and Community Development Expenses.

M. Barkhouse then responded to questions from Council.

CAO J. Lawrence noted this would be approximately a 2% surplus savings in the budget and spoke to projects that might be targeted out of the savings.

It was noted that it is anticipated that the Town will see an estimated \$231,000 surplus this year.

Mayor L. Boucher thanked M. Barkhouse for her presentation.

- **Antigonish Arena Property – Upgrades**

CAO J. Lawrence noted K. Proctor was not able to attend and he would be speaking in his place and spoke to previous work that was discussed back in 2003. He stated there is now an application for the new Farmers' Market, and the need is still there for improved infrastructure services to the area around the Arena and Federation of Agriculture. This would cost approximately a \$50,000. with the funds coming out of the depreciation funds. CAO J. Lawrence spoke to the sewer which would see the Farmers' Market building being serviced off of a line currently coming down Fairview Street, with the cost of this being approximately \$25,000, and this would come out of the monies raised for depreciation.

CAO J. Lawrence responded to questions from Council. It was noted the intent is to have the work carried out as early as possible in the Spring.

Councillor W. Cormier spoke to storm water flowing down from Fairview Street to James Street.

K. Meisner responded that a storm sewer could be looked at if there was paving done in the area.

"It was Moved and Seconded to endorse the proposed project with funding as proposed by CAO J. Lawrence." Motion carried.

Business from Minutes

There was no Business from the previous minutes.

New Business

- **Signing Authority for Acting Director of Corporate Services**

It was noted that M. Barkhouse would soon be starting maternity leave and would require B. Luciano to have signing authority in her absence.

"It was Moved and Seconded that M. Barkhouse make arrangements to have B. Luciano given signing authority for the Town of Antigonish forthwith." Motion carried.

- **Appointment of Deputy Mayor**

Mayor L. Boucher spoke briefly to this being the final year for this term and thanked Council and in particular Deputy Mayor D. MacInnis for his service over the past year.

Mayor L. Boucher called for nominations for Deputy Mayor. Councillor J. MacPherson and Councillor A. Murray both nominated Councillor M. Farrell. Mayor L. Boucher called for nominations two more times.

With no other names being put forth Councillor W. Cormier seconded the motion to appoint Councillor M. Farrell to the position of Deputy Clerk.

“It was Moved and Seconded that Councillor M. Farrell be appointed Deputy Mayor to November 2020.” Motion carried.

- Appointment of Mr. B. MacDonald to the Antigonish Town Volunteer Fire Department Subject to Requirements
- S. Scannell provided details on the request to appoint B. MacDonald to the Fire Department.

“It was Moved and Seconded that Mr. B. MacDonald be appointed to the Antigonish Town Volunteer Fire Department subject to completing any outstanding requirements as set forth by the Fire Department.” Motion carried.

Correspondence

- Funding Request – Ageing Well in Antigonish (K. Robertsson)
- Mayor L. Boucher spoke briefly to the request from Aging Well in Antigonish and responded to a query from Council as to whether or how much the County might be contributed.

The matter was tabled until the next Joint Advisory Council meeting.

Mayor L. Boucher introduced correspondence from the 13th annual AAIF thanking Council for their support and the success of this year’s film festival.

Staff Reports

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

Brief discussion took place on the Eastern District Planning Commission’s Report.

Committee Reports

- Recreation Advisory Committee
- Deputy Mayor M. Farrell brought forth items from a November Recreation meeting noting the parade is this weekend to be followed by the tree lighting and spoke to some of the details.

Council was advised the Town will partner with sponsors for a 5k Santa shuffle Fun Run on December, with donations going to the food-bank.

Deputy Mayor M. Farrell also provided details on a winter equipment loan program and free family winter events.

- Accessibility Advisory Committee
- Councillor D. MacInnis advised the Accessibility Committee had met and discussed the side door as an accessible entrance. He noted the Committee is fine with the side door being used as the accessible entry. It was noted the Committee would be meeting again on Wednesday.

- Police & License Committee

Councillor D. Roberts advised she had nothing to report and would be having a meeting tomorrow. She noted Councillor J. MacPherson would be attending the meeting.

- Beautification and Land Rehabilitation Committee

Councillor A. Murray reported that the Christmas Lights had finally arrived and hoped they would be put up this Wednesday. He responded to questions from Councillor W. Cormier regarding the planting that were removed from the West end of Main Street (to be replaced) as well as at the new intersection.

- Waste Management

Councillor J. MacPherson noted that he took the 5.7 km drive out to the Beech Hill Waste Facility and questioned the status of the Household Hazardous Waste container. It was noted a permit has been submitted for the container and that the County is waiting for a response from the regulatory authority. Brief discussion took place.

- Fire Committee

Councillor W. Cormier had nothing to report.

- Planning Advisory Committee

Mayor L. Boucher reported that the Committee is almost to the end of the review of the Municipal Planning Strategy and that P. Dec and Easter District Planning Commission (EDPC) staff are putting together the final details.

Councillor A. Murray questioned the status of the project at the east end of Main Street, with CAO J. Lawrence noting the project is not being held up by the Town or EDPC.

CAO J. Lawrence responded to a question regarding a proposed project adjacent the CIBC on Main Street.

CAO J. Lawrence requested L. Basinger to provide an update on the Boarding House By-law.

Ms. L. Basinger noted she is in the process of adding more detail and clarification further to a review by the Town's Solicitor.

With there being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:47 PM