

**Regular Town Council Meeting
September 21, 2020
Location: Various Via Zoom**

Present

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

Also Present

J. Lawrence, CAO
D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk
M. Barkhouse, Corporate Services
K. Gorman, Communications
K. Proctor, P.Eng.
L. Roy, Strategic Initiatives
S. Scannell, Community Development

Media
Delegates

Call to Order

Mayor L. Boucher called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

Mayor L. Boucher welcomed everyone including the guests online.

Approval of Agenda

"It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Agenda as amended." Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

"It was Moved and Seconded to approve the minutes of the In Camera and Regular Council July 20, 2020, Special In Camera Council meeting of July 28, Special In Camera presentation to Council of August 11th and Special and In Camera meetings of September 8, 2020." Motion carried.

Presentations

- R. Mattie/P. Basile Re: 2021 Nova Scotia Summer Fest

Mayor L. Boucher welcomed the delegates to the meeting invited them to make their presentation.

The delegates provided Council with a PowerPoint presentation on various aspects of the organization, it's mandate and history.

Council was advised that the Nova Scotia Summer Fest and Keppoch wish to expand their festival to include the use of Columbus Field.

Following the presentation Mayor L. Boucher thanked R. Mattie and a question and answer session followed. Mayor L. Boucher advised that any decision by Council would be subject to any approvals required by the Columbus Club.

“It was Moved and Seconded that the Town move forward in an effort to host a portion of NS Summer Fest for August 2021 as proposed, subject to approval by the Columbus Club.” Motion carried.

- T. Sampson, Strait Area Ground Search and Rescue
Mayor L. Boucher welcomed T. Sampson to the meeting and invited him to speak.

T. Sampson provided an update on activity and revenue for 2019 and 2020 noting they have now been granted non-profit status by the Canada Revenue Agency. Details were provided on finances and support to date, noting their ask is for \$5,000 from the Town. Brief discussion took place on their Community Grants application.

CAO J. Lawrence spoke briefly on past discussions on a formula based on population, with T. Sampson responding. Brief discussion took place. A question and answer session took place.

Councillor W. Cormier provided comment on supporting the organization.

Mayor L. Boucher advised T. Sampson that Council would discuss the request and get back to him.

- Antigonish - Net Zero Community – L. Roy, Strategic Initiatives Coordinator
Mayor L. Boucher welcomed L. Roy.

A PowerPoint presentation was made on the impact of climate change and greenhouse gas emissions, and the Town moving forward toward net zero.

Council was apprised of what net zero is and how it can be achieved. L. Roy briefly reviewed the success of others, noting no community has yet become net zero. A brief review of greenhouse gas emissions in Nova Scotia was presented

L. Roy provided details on steps the Town has already taken that would aid toward becoming net zero, noting the next major step would be electrification and expanded on the details. She noted calculating a community carbon inventory is a key step with a 5-step milestone that municipalities can use that is set out by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and partners.

Council was apprised on the motivations to action and recommendations.

Mayor L. Boucher thanked L. Roy for her presentation and a question and answer session followed.

CAO J. Lawrence noted that it is difficult to define exactly what net zero is, and that L. Roy would be working (with St. FX) to determine where the Town is and spoke briefly on efforts to date and moving forward.

Business from Minutes

There was no Business from the Minutes

New Business

- HOWE Club – Financial Request – Deleted from Agenda

- Lodging Home By-law (S. Scannell)

S. Scannell noted that approximately 70 properties have voluntarily registered their buildings as a result of the Lodging Home By-law, noting there are others that have not registered and that the Town will be moving toward enforcement to ensure compliance.

Mayor L. Boucher thanked S. Scannell for his update.

- Resolution; Covid-19 and Childcare

Mayor L. Boucher provided brief comment on the resolution.

In response to Mayor L. Boucher, M. Barkhouse (Corporate Services) provided comment on the proposed resolution.

“It was Moved and Seconded that WHEREAS the Town of Antigonish is monitoring the issue of COVID-19 in the community and the impact if a Town employee’s child is exposed to COVID-19 and the employee must stay home to provide childcare;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chief Administrative Officer be given the authority to extend personal leave time to ten (10) days for employees with school-aged children who have to isolate due to COVID-19 and need childcare become effective immediately and end June 30, 2021.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Chief Administrative Officer has the authority to determine if the personal leave is to be extended on a case-by-case basis.” Motion carried.

- Community Navigator Inter-Municipal Agreement

S. Scannell provided a brief overview of the Community Navigator Inter-Municipal Agreement, noting discussion has been ongoing and that a couple of housekeeping amendments were required and have been included in the document presented this evening. He noted the amendment deals with a quorum and asset division upon dissolution.

“It was Moved and Seconded that the Community Navigator Inter-Municipal Agreement be approved with amendments as presented.” Motion carried.

Correspondence

- Ms. D. Davies; Book Sponsorship Request

Mayor L. Boucher provided brief comment on the request by Ms. D. Davies and noted that in discussion with the County Warden moving forward it was suggested that the item be tabled and discussed at an upcoming joint town and county meeting.

Sponsorship request tabled.

- CACL; Grant Request

Mayor L. Boucher noted that the CACL is requesting \$6,500 from the Town of Antigonish as a result of Covid-19 and noted that they did not apply for a grant this year.

"It was Moved and Seconded that the Town support the CACL with \$6,500.00 in financial support from Council's discretionary funds with a recommendation that the organization be diligent in applying for funding through the Community Grants program in the future." Brief discussion took place.

Councillor D. MacInnis noted that although CACL had been contracted to do flower basket watering that the contract was cut short due to water restrictions. Discussion took place.

- International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN); Mayor L. Boucher
Mayor L. Boucher noted that today is the International Day of Peace and provided comment.

Mayor L. Boucher read aloud the correspondence received.

"It was Moved and Seconded that the Town of Antigonish endorse the ICAN Cities appeal and correspond with the Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs to inform them of the Town's endorsement of the appeal." Motion carried.

Mayor L. Boucher read aloud the appeal.

- Right to Know Week (September 28-October 4, 2020); Mayor L. Boucher
Mayor L. Boucher read aloud the Right to Know Week proclamation.

"It was Moved and Seconded that the Town of Antigonish proclaim Right to Know Week from September 28th to October 4, 2020." Motion carried.

- Request to Fly Flag Re: Antigonish Town Fire Department
Mayor L. Boucher noted a request was received from the Town of Antigonish Volunteer Fire Department to fly their flag October 4-10th during Fire Prevention week."

Councillor A. Murray put forth a suggestion on how and where various flags should be flown.

"It was Moved and Seconded to fly the Antigonish Town Volunteer Fire Department flag during Fire Prevention Week." Motion carried.

Additions to Agenda

- Heat Pump Program Referral Agreement

"It was Moved and Seconded to approve the referral agreement." Motion carried.

Staff Reports

- CAO Report

"It was Moved and Seconded to accept the CAO Report as presented." Motion carried.

- Weekend Event

Mayor L. Boucher spoke briefly on large group events within the Town over the past weekend, the involvement of staff and RCMP, fines that had been levied by the RCMP, and subsequent follow up.

Discussion took place.

- Water Shortage

L. Boucher thanked the community for their participation in the voluntary and mandated water reduction over the past while.

CAO J. Lawrence spoke to the dry summer noting that with the installation of water meters the Town has seen a reduction in water consumption and spoke to efforts to use science to reduce the amount of water required for fish flows. He noted the Town has also worked with the County to quantify the yield available from their wells and spoke further to the matter, noting further work is ongoing to look at alternate sources of water for the future.

Brief discussion took place.

- S. Scannell Re: Electronic Ticketing Program

S. Scannell provided an overview of efforts to date as staff move toward an electronic ticketing program. He noted there are two parts to the new system - ticket management and parking enforcement - staff are currently using the ticket management portion of the program and have found it beneficial.

S. Scannell responded to a query from Councillor W. Cormier on efforts in the past that would allow staff to query details regarding vehicles/plates.

Committee Reports

- Recreation Committee

Deputy Mayor M. Farrell stated that an accessible swing is being installed at Columbus Field. And that the tennis courts that were built in the 1970s are being totally re-built (for tennis and pickle ball) and provided further comment.

- Accessibility Committee

Councillor D. MacInnis advised that the Accessibility Committee had met last week and will attend an accessibility webinar next Wednesday that will hopefully aid in developing an accessibility plan.

- Police & License Committee

Councillor D. Roberts reported on a Police & License meeting and provided details on various matters discussed at the meeting.

- Beautification Committee

Councillor A. Murray reported on a recent Beautification meeting noting the main discussion revolved around drought and noted consideration is being given to self-watering containers in the future. He noted an on-site meeting of the Committee and B. McKee will be held at Chisholm Park.

- RCMP Advisory Board

Councillor J. MacPherson noted an RCMP Advisory Board met via Zoom and that a Waste Management meeting was also held. Council was advised that the bulky item pick up has since taken place and provided further comment.

- Fire Committee

Councillor W. Cormier stated the Fire Committee has not met since Covid but will be working on the matter of private hydrants. He spoke briefly to the fire levy for the purchase of fire vehicles moving forward and thanked Council and CAO J. Lawrence for this being put in place.

- Planning Advisory Committee

Mayor L. Boucher noted that the Planning Committee had not met.

Mayor L. Boucher noted this was the final meeting of the current Council prior to the upcoming election and provided comment on achievements over the past four (4) year. She thanked everyone for all they have done and wished Council well in the upcoming election.

At 7:54 PM the meeting was adjourned.