

**Regular Town Council Meeting
January 18, 2021
Town Council Chambers**

Present

Mayor L. Boucher
Deputy Mayor A. Murray
Councillor S. Cameron
Councillor W. Cormier
Councillor M. Farrell
Councillor D. MacInnis
Councillor D. Roberts (via telephone)

Also Present

D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk
S. Scannell, Community Development
M. Barkhouse, Human Resources
K. Gorman, Communications
K. Proctor, Town Engineer
L. Roy, Strategic Initiatives

Delegates
Media

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 amended." Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

"It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Minutes of the November 20, 2020 EPoll, December 1st Special Council, December 8th Special In Camera, and December 14th, 2020, In Camera and Regular Council meeting Minutes." Motion carried.

Presentations

- Proclamation; African Heritage Month

Mayor L. Boucher acknowledged those present who are involved with African Heritage Month and provided comment on various activities that will be held virtually this year. She then read aloud the 2021 Proclamation declaring February as African Heritage Month and signed the Proclamation.

A photo opportunity took place.

Mayor L. Boucher brought forth correspondence from L. Reddick, Secretary for Zone 7 African Cultural Heritage Awareness Association (ACHAAC) which requested that the Town fly the African flag during the month of February.

"It was Moved and Seconded that the Town fly the African flag during the month of February." Motion carried.

- **Downtown Christmas Parking Revenue**

Mayor L. Boucher noted that this year instead of allowing free parking in designated areas during the holiday season, meters collected parking fees which are being divided equally between the Antigonish Community Food Bank and Antigonish Emergency Fuel Fund.

Mayor L. Boucher called on representatives of the Antigonish Emergency Fuel Fund, Antigonish Community Food Bank and Council for a cheque presentation and photo opportunity. Staff were commended for the uptake of this idea.

- **Friends of Antigonish Harbour**

L. Bilek and M. MacDonald were in attendance to provide a PowerPoint presentation and commentary on activities being proposed for Antigonish Harbour.

M. MacDonald thanked Council for the opportunity to present to Council and a short video was presented.

L. Bilek provided an outline of various positive outcomes by private and public entities that have assisted to protect and enhance Antigonish Harbour. He provided details on the make-up of an existing group of concerned citizens.

M. MacDonald spoke to an application by Town Point Consulting to develop 91 acres of harbor and the related aspects of the proposed development. Council was provided with an outline of the general area. A list of concerns was presented.

The delegates presented an outline of possible risks to the Harbour as a result of the proposed development.

Mayor L. Boucher thanked the duo for their presentation and various Councillors put forth questions. L. Bilek provided comment on other existing oyster farms.

It was noted that the matter is currently before the NS Utility and Review Board which would identify various departments for input.

Mayor L. Boucher provided comment indicating the Town and County will be involved with a process that would try help to address some of the concerns.

Business from Minutes

- **Appointment to R.K. MacDonald Board**

Mayor L. Boucher provided an update noting she had reached out to a couple members of the community and noted that the Board recently requested changes to the manner in which delegates are selected to be appointed to sit on the R.K. Board of Directors, and is awaiting a response from the community members.

Brief discussion took place on the skill sets that the Board is seeking to have their volunteers have

- Covid Update

Councillor W. Cormier requested Mayor L. Boucher provide and update on Covid-19 as it relates to the University and provided brief comment.

Mayor L. Boucher stated she does sit on a committee that meets weekly, with all being very transparent. She provided comment on actions that were taken during the initial return of students to the Town. She noted that both the University and Hospital are seeking 'pop up' testing in this area.

New Business

- D. Webster – Request Release of Easement

CAO J. Lawrence noted that requests had been made in the past for the easement on this property to be released. He provided details noting the property owner wishes to carry out activity on his property but is concerned he may be liable for damage to existing aged infrastructure.

He noted that the Town Engineer is currently looking into the matter which will come back to Council and suggested this would allow D. Webster to carry out activity on his property and not become liable for damage to existing infrastructure.

- Eastern District Planning Commission (EDPC) Membership

CAO J. Lawrence advised Council that the Town had applied for full membership to the EDPC for Planning and Building Inspection services and provided details.

Council was advised that the Board members are now taking the request back to their perspective Councils for approval and that the Town's acceptance is probable.

Mayor L. Boucher provided comment on the enhancement of the Town to the Board and vice-versa. Discussion took place.

- Advisory Committee Policy Amendments

Council was advised that three (3) amendments were being put forth for the Advisory Committee Policy including an amendment to the Waste Management section, the terms of appointment and the addition of the Audit Committee.

Councillor D. Roberts put forth the following:

"That the Town amend the Waste Management portion of the Advisory Committee policy to include a volunteer member from the community and a voting member from an environmental services sector of St. FX University;

That the Town amend the Advisory Committee policy to include changes to the terms of appointment; and

That the Town amend the Advisory Committee policy to include the Audit Committee." Motions carried.

"That the Police & License Committee be amended to include a member of the public." Motion carried.

- Temporary Borrowing Resolution

Councillor W. Cormier put forth the following:

“That the Town under the authority of Section 66 of the Municipal Government Act borrow a sum not exceeding \$2,410,000 (two million four hundred and ten thousand dollars) for the purpose of a Community Solar Garden Project.” Motion carried.

CAO J. Lawrence responded to questions from Councillor W. Cormier and provided comment on the Town’s intent to move forward with AREA’s proposal of a solar garden.

Correspondence

- Request to Fly African - Previously discussed

Staff Reports

- CAO Report

CAO J. Lawrence responded to questions arising from the CAO Report.

Councillor W. Cormier provided positive comment on the new tennis courts. It was noted that there is a plan to have the lights remain on until approximately 10 PM.

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

Committee Reports

- Police & License Committee

Councillor W. Cormier noted a meeting of the Police & License Committee would be held shortly.

- Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library Board

Councillor S. Cameron reported that the Library is scheduling new ‘Zoom’ meetings for a book club to be held the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

- Community Enhancement Committee

Councillor A. Murray stated he had nothing to report.

- Accessibility Committee

Councillor D. MacInnis noted he had met with S. Scannell who reported that Upland have things moving along with the criteria of an accessibility draft and had met with approximately 17 community organizations/individuals which garnered lots of good feedback. He noted there would the Accessibility Committee would likely meet within the next week or so.

- Eastern District Planning Commission (EDPC)

Councillor M. Farrell advised she had attended a couple of meeting with the EDPC Board.

- Waste Management Committee

Councillor D. Roberts reported on a Waste Committee meeting on January 13th and noted the Waste By-law has been reviewed by committee members over past few months and they are now awaiting comments from administration. Council was advised that Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) facility is now open at Beech Hill.

Councillor D. Roberts noted the Committee is looking for new Committee members. She invited the Mayor and CAO to attend the next committee meeting for discussion regarding waste bag limit(s).

With there being no further business it was Moved and Seconded to adjourn at 7:31 PM.

Next Meeting Tuesday, February 16th