



Truro Town Council Meeting
Monday, July 7th, 2014
Council Chambers – Civic Building

18

A regular public meeting of Truro Town Council was held on Monday, July 7th, 2014 at 1:00 pm in the Council Chambers of the Truro Civic Building.

Present: Deputy Mayor D. Joseph, Councillors R. Tynes, C. Fritz, B. Kinsman, T. Chisholm and G. MacArthur (1:10pm)

Regrets: Mayor W.R. (Bill) Mills, Director of Planning J. Fox and Fire Chief B. Currie

In Attendance: Director of Finance A. Currie, Planning Administrator J. Bigelow, Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture D. MacKenzie, Police Chief D. MacNeil, Director of Public Works A. MacKinnon, Town Solicitor J. Rafferty and CAO J. Langille

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The CAO requested that “Taxi Bylaw Amendments – 1st Reading” be added to the agenda under New Business.

On motion of Councillors G. MacArthur and T. Chisholm, the agenda was approved as amended. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Councillors T. Chisholm and R. Tynes, the minutes of the Public Hearing and Public Council Meeting held June 9th, 2014 were approved as circulated. Motion carried.

PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS

a) Presentation – Marigold Cultural Centre

Al Rosen, Executive Director of the Marigold Cultural Centre, made a presentation to Council on the recent improvements they have implemented and the plans to grow the business.

The Deputy Mayor thanked him for his presentation.

Councillor R. Tynes suggested that the Marigold Centre should investigate having a link from the Town of Truro website to their website.

OLD BUSINESS

a) Maggie’s Place Request

The CAO advised that Maggie’s Place gave a presentation to Council at a previous meeting requesting a one-time financial contribution of \$35,000 to pay for renovations to their new facility on Prince Street.

On motion of Councillors R. Tynes and B. Kinsman, it was agreed to grant \$35,000 to Maggie’s Place for renovation costs. Motion carried.

IN-CAMERA SUMMARY REPORT

The CAO advised Council that there were two legal issues discussed by Council at the last In-Camera meeting and requested Council meet after this meeting to discuss one legal issue and one personnel issue.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Report

The Finance report for the month of June was presented to Council.

On motion of Councillors G. MacArthur and T. Chisholm, it was moved that the Finance report for the month of June, 2014 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Fire Report

The Fire Report for the month of June was presented to Council.

On motion of Councillor B. Kinsman and C. Fritz, it was moved that the Fire Report for the month of June, 2014 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Planning and Development Report

The Planning and Development report for the month of June was presented to Council.

Councillor R. Tynes advised that he had received some complaints about line of vision in some locations due to sidewalk cafes.

J. Bigelow stated that the Planning Department had received complaints as well, and the property owners have been instructed to keep the corner of the deck clear.

On motion of Councillors C. Fritz and R. Tynes, it was moved that the Planning and Development report for the month of June, 2014 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Bylaw Enforcement Report

The Bylaw Enforcement Report for the month of June was presented to Council.

Councillor G. MacArthur stated that from the report, a vacant building registry would be a great idea.

Councillor R. Tynes asked about the status of a property on West Prince Street cited for clean up of garbage.

J. Bigelow advised that the property had been cleaned up.

Councillor R. Tynes noted that he had received an email with a concern over loitering issues, and asked if it was up to the Bylaw Officer to determine people who should not be loitering, and how such a thing could be enforced.

Councillor C. Fritz advised that she had received complaints from residents on Purdy Avenue regarding a large commercial vehicle parked on a residential street. She believed there may be a tonnage provision and the vehicle was under the allowance.

Councillor R. Tynes requested that legal look into the specifics of commercial vehicles being allowed to park on residential streets.

Deputy Mayor D. Joseph asked about residences that are cited and require minimal remediation for compliance are granted an extension of any kind.

J. Bigelow noted that in the case of a property owner being required to paint, and perhaps cannot afford paint until the following month, then negotiations occur within the Planning Department and they are usually granted an extension.

On motion of Councillors G. MacArthur and C. Fritz, it was moved that the Bylaw Enforcement Report for the month of June, 2014 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Police Report

The Police Report for the month of June was presented to Council.

On motion of Councillors R. Tynes and T. Chisholm, it was moved that the Police Report for the month of June, 2014 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Public Works Report

The Public Works report for the month of June was presented to Council.

Councillor G. MacArthur asked if concerns over the deer population in Truro should be directed to the Public Works Director.

The Director of Public Works advised that his department does get a number of complaints, and requests for recommendations as to what individuals can do to deter the deer from their property.

Councillor R. Tynes stated that the Town should work with the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities to bring discussions with the province.

Councillor C. Fritz suggested that staff contact the Department of Natural Resources as well. Deputy Mayor D. Joseph advised that a letter would be sent to the Department of Natural Resources and UNSM. It was also agreed that legal would review the Bylaw for an interpretation for Council.

Councillor R. Tynes asked if the department was on schedule with the capital works projects.

The Director of Publics stated that the projects are only one week behind schedule.

Councillor C. Fritz noted there were major potholes at the corner of Willow Street and Glenwood Drive and asked for the Public Works Department to investigate and hopefully repair.

On motion of Councillors G. MacArthur and R. Tynes, it was moved that the Public Works Report for the month of June, 2014 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Parks, Recreation and Culture Report

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Report for the month of June was presented to Council.

Councillor G. MacArthur noted that the Douglas Street Rec Centre was being well used for recreation activities, but perhaps Council should keep the building in mind for next year's budget when it comes to upgrades.

On motion of Councillors T. Chisholm and B. Kinsman, it was moved that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Report for the month of June, 2014 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Safety Coordinators Report

The Safety Coordinators Report for the month of June was presented to Council.

On motion of Councillors G. MacArthur and C. Fritz, it was moved that the Safety Coordinators Report for the month of June, 2014 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Councillor T. Chisholm requested that groups looking for grants should submit their applications now for consideration next March, instead of submitting them shortly after the budget is passed.

Councillor G. MacArthur noted that he was hearing a lot of positive comments from the community about increased police presence and asked if the Chief was hearing the positive comments as well.

The Police Chief advised that he had received several emails over the past months and had increased police presence and that people were taking note.

Councillor G. MacArthur stated that he was previously the co-chair of the Project Steering Committee for the RECC, and that Councillor B. Kinsman, two councillors from Colchester and six citizens were also members of the Committee. He noted during that time that the Town and the County's legal teams were involved, but since then, the Town and the County are being sued by PCL and asked if the Town's lawyer was involved in the discussion.

The CAO advised that the claim by PCL involved a claim regarding operations and another one involving capital. He noted that when the Operating Board took over from the Project Steering Committee, the Board tendered for legal services which was awarded to Patterson Law.

Councillor G. MacArthur noted that the claim by PCL was against the Steering Committee and not the Operating Board, so perhaps the Town's lawyer should be involved as well.

The CAO agreed that the Project Steering Committee was the committee that built the building, and then turned it over to the Operating Board to manage the operations. He suggested that this question be taken to the Project Steering Committee.

Deputy Mayor D. Joseph asked that discussions take place with the County with regards to the odour from the rendering plant.

The CAO advised that the Town could contact the County about the odour, but that the Town would also be able to contact the plant directly.

On motion of Councillors G. MacArthur and T. Chisholm, it was agreed that a letter would be sent to the rendering plant expressing Council's concern regarding odour and air quality for residents. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS**a) Request from Harmony Heights Elementary School**

The CAO reviewed a letter received from the Harmony Heights Elementary School, requesting \$10,333 from the Town to use towards the enhancement of the school by building a trail.

The CAO advised that the Town has surplus funds for school enhancements with interest accumulated that would more than cover the request.

On motion of Councillors G. MacArthur and T. Chisholm, it was agreed that \$10,333 would be granted to Harmony Heights Elementary from surplus funds for construction of a trail. Motion carried.

b) Request from Caledonian Orchestra of Nova Scotia

The CAO reviewed a letter received from the Caledonian Orchestra of Nova Scotia, requesting sponsorship for their brochure to be used over next 15 months as they perform across Nova Scotia.

On motion of Councillors B. Kinsman and G. MacArthur, it was agreed that the Town would purchase two spots in the Caledonian Orchestra's brochure for a total of \$100. Motion carried.

c) New Building Canada Fund

The CAO advised that as part of the requirements of the New Building Canada Fund, a resolution was required in which to establish the priorities for Council for this current grant budget year. He noted that the three projects listed in priority were the Hilden Interchange, the Willow Street/McClure's Mills Road roundabout, and flood risk mitigation project. The CAO advised that a motion today would not require any immediate spending on the Town's behalf.

Councillor B. Kinsman questioned whether the roundabout should take priority over the interchange, as it was a lower cost to the Town.

The CAO noted that the resolution passed today is simply to create the priorities for Council based on the New Building Canada Fund project, and that Council could change the priorities how they wished.

Councillor C. Fritz noted that with regards to the roundabout, she has been asked by residents in that area about a study that was conducted, or would be conducted.

The CAO advised that a number of studies on a roundabout had taken place, with the initial study to determine the most effective way to try to deal with the traffic congestion that exists on that street and the study recommended a roundabout.

The Director of Public Works advised that studies had taken place and currently real estate needs for a roundabout were being figured out. He noted that the priority list to be submitted to the Province was a list to show which direction the Town was headed with for projects, so they can support the Town when the actual application for funding is made.

On motion of Councillors T. Chisholm and G. MacArthur, the priority list of three projects including the Hilden interchange, the Willow Street/McClure's Mills roundabout and flood mitigation projects, was approved as presented for the New Building Canada Fund. Motion carried with four votes in favour with one nay vote cast by Councillor B. Kinsman (Councillor R. Tynes was not present for the vote).

d) Land Exchange

The CAO advised that this exchange of property with the Province of Nova Scotia was a matter that required an official resolution of Council. The Town would be acquiring approximately 300 square metres behind the Normal College building for the expansion of the new library, and the Province would be acquiring approximately 451 square metres of land adjacent to the Colchester Museum, a provincially owned property.

On motion of Councillors T. Chisholm and C. Fritz, in accordance with an Agreement of Purchase and Sale between the Town and the Province of Nova Scotia dated January 29th, 2014, the Town acquire from the Province of Nova Scotia a portion of the property located to the rear of the old Normal College property, containing about 300 square metres to permit the expansion of the Normal college building for the new library and, in exchange, the Town convey to the Province of Nova Scotia, a portion of the Town's property at 23 Young Street, containing about 451 square metres. Motion carried.

e) Ensemble Multi-Cultural Artists Gallery

The CAO reviewed a letter received from Ensemble Multi-Cultural Artists Gallery, requesting financial assistance in the amount of \$5,000 in establishing a not-for-profit multi-cultural artist gallery in downtown Truro.

It was agreed that a financial report and a business plan would be requested before Council made a decision on financial assistance.

f) Taxi Bylaw Amendments – 1st Reading

The Town Solicitor advised that a few amendments were being suggested to the Town's Taxi Bylaw, arising from discussions with the County of Colchester in creating a Taxi Bylaw in the County to coincide with the Town's Bylaw.

The Town Solicitor advised that a wording change was being suggested regarding the safety sticker that must be provided for an applicant for a taxi license. Another change was being suggested that would allow smaller fuel efficient cars to be used as taxis, which is done elsewhere in the Province. A third change would be the removal of set rates that can be charged, and instead set a maximum rate that would allow and encourage competition. He noted that this was first reading, and second reading would happen at the September Council meeting.

On motion of Councillors G. MacArthur and T. Chisholm, 1st reading of the amendments to the Taxi Bylaw were approved, and 2nd reading will occur at the September Council meeting. Motion carried.

ACCOUNTS

It was moved by Councillors G. MacArthur and T. Chisholm, that Council approve for payment the accounts as presented be approved for the month of June, 2014. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Councillors R. Tynes and T. Chisholm, it was moved that the meeting be adjourned at approximately 3:10 p.m. Motion carried.

D. Joseph
Deputy Mayor

J.K. Langille
CAO