



A regular public meeting of Truro Town Council was held on Monday, March 3rd, 2014 at 1:00 pm in the Council Chambers of the Truro Civic Building.

Present: Mayor W. R. (Bill) Mills, Deputy Mayor D. Joseph, Councillors C. Fritz, R. Tynes, B. Kinsman, G. MacArthur and T. Chisholm

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion of Councillors T. Chisholm and B. Kinsman, the agenda was approved as circulated. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Councillors C. Fritz and T. Chisholm, the minutes of the Public Council Meeting held February 3rd, 2014 were approved as circulated. Motion carried.

MOTIONS AND NOTICES OF MOTIONS

a) Public Hearing Date – 30 Duke Street/54-56 King Street, Development Agreement Amendment

The CAO reviewed correspondence from the Town Planning Advisory Committee, recommending that Council establish a hearing date to consider an application from the developer for 30 Duke Street/54-56 King Street to amend the Development Agreement to allow one additional dwelling unit or alternatively, 90 square metres of office space in existing mixed use building.

The CAO reviewed correspondence from the developer, requesting a hearing date for the July Council meeting. The CAO noted that the Director of Planning would not be available to attend a July Council meeting.

It was agreed that this matter would be on the agenda for the April Council meeting to set a hearing date.

b) Public Hearing – 474 Young Street, Development Agreement

The CAO advised that Council had set a public hearing date today to hear a proposed Development Agreement for 474 Young Street. The developer was requesting that the Town permit the development of a 20 unit residential development consisting of 6 one storey buildings each containing 3 or 4 townhouse style dwelling units, and that this hearing had been advertised.

On motion of Councillors G. MacArthur and B. Kinsman, Council approved the Development Agreement for 474 Young Street, for a 20 unit residential development consisting of 6 one storey buildings containing 3 or 4 townhouse style dwelling units, subject to a storm water management plan acceptable to the Director of Public Works and the installation of a fence or hedge along the southern and western edge of the property. Motion carried.

c) Public Hearing – 5 Elm Street, Rezoning

The Mayor advised that he had a conflict of interest for this matter and excused himself from the hearing. Deputy Mayor D. Joseph took over as Chair for this public hearing.

The CAO advised that Council had set a public hearing date today to hear a proposed rezoning of lands at 5 Elm Street from medium density residential zone to institutional zone, for the propose of permitting the property to be developed as a parking area for the church next door, and that this hearing had been advertised.

On motion of Councillors R. Tynes and C. Fritz, approval was given for the rezoning of 5 Elm Street from medium density residential zone to institutional zone, subject to a storm water management plan. Motion carried.

PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS

a) Presentation – EMO Nova Scotia

The Mayor advised that this presentation had been cancelled and would be rescheduled.

b) Presentation – Aberdeen Street Community Park

Rob Carreau of Ecole Acadienne de Truro and Deanne Pelchat, a school and community development agent working for Ecole Acadienne de Truro made a presentation to Council on their proposed natural playground. The cost of the playground will be \$435,896, to be made up from funding sources, fundraising, in kind donations, and grants, and they have raised \$164,433 so far. They advised that the Town has already granted \$1,000 for the planning and design, and they were requesting an additional \$39,000 for a board fence separating the park from the neighbours, repainting of the basketball court and crosswalks, and for the stairs, railing and signage and \$1,000 towards the community garden.

Mr. Carreau advised that the Parks & Recreation Committee supported the project in principal but there was no formal recommendation from the Committee to Council.

Councillor T. Chisholm asked if the Town could provide in kind contributions rather than a financial contribution.

Ms. Pelchat advised that they would be very happy with that option as well.

Councillor C. Fritz noted that she liked the concept, but asked who is responsible to maintain the park when completed.

Ms. Pelchat advised that the school board funds maintenance for playgrounds, but given the concept of this one in particular, it would be relatively low maintenance.

Deputy Mayor D. Joseph asked if any neighbourhood consultation had taken place.

Ms. Pelchat advised that the school has spoken directly to the immediate neighbours and that flyers were placed in mailboxes along Alice, Brunswick, York and Aberdeen inviting people to a consultation meeting, but no one attended.

It was agreed that this matter would be sent for budget consideration.

IN-CAMERA SUMMARY REPORT

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Report

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

Councillor R. Tynes asked for further explanation on the job advertisement for the Truck Transport Mechanic Apprentice position.

The CAO advised that the Town's current heavy duty mechanic is physically unable to currently perform his job duties, and the Town is attempting to expand the service we are currently providing in the mechanical shop to include smaller Town vehicles.

The Director of Public Works advised that the advertisement is to replace the existing mechanic, as the CAO stated, and he is due to retire in two years. He noted that the Town advertised for a licensed heavy equipment mechanic but did not receive any replies, so we are advertising for an apprentice.

Councillor R. Tynes asked about the other mechanic within the Public Works Department.

The Director of Public Works advised that that individual was the Supervisor of Fleet and when he is available to do mechanic work, he completes such work. He noted that the time the Supervisor spends on heavy duty mechanic work is very little because of all of the administrative work required for maintaining the fleet of vehicles.

On motion of Councillors R. Tynes and B. Kinsman, it was moved that the Finance report for the month of February, 2014 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Fire Report

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

On motion of Councillors T. Chisholm and C. Fritz, it was moved that the Fire Report for the month of February, 2014 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Planning and Development Report

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

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

Bylaw Enforcement Report

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

Councillor T. Chisholm thanked the department for the organizing of the removal of the buildings on the corner of Prince and Dominion Streets.

Councillor R. Tynes thanked the owner of the buildings as well, who was very sick at the time but understood the Town's concerns and dealt with the issue.

Councillor R. Tynes noted that one weekend patrol was conducted in Victoria Park and Kiwanis Park, checking for dogs not on leashes. He noted that he has gotten a lot of complaints about dogs not being on leashes at those locations and up in the reservoir area. He suggested that a better schedule be put in place for evenings and weekends to address these concerns. He noted that same concerns and suggestion for smoking on Inglis Place.

The Mayor noted that Council has discussed the feral cats issues before. He advised that the Province of Nova Scotia is working on the creation of a feral cat bylaw. He noted the issue of tethering dogs has been brought up by concern citizens as well and the Province is addressing this issue as well.

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

Police Report

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

Councillor G. MacArthur noted that a meeting was in the planning stages for a discussion with citizens and the Police Chief on crime issues. He asked if a date had been set yet.

The CAO advised that his office was working on behalf of the Police Board to arrange this meeting at a convenient time. He noted that he believed the week of March 19th was being considered.

On motion of Deputy Mayor G. MacArthur and Councillor R. Tynes, it was moved that the Police Report for the month of February, 2014 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Public Works Report

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

Councillor R. Tynes noted that the Town is aware of that there are a lot of potholes, but because of the weather and no hot patch being available this time of year, the patching of any holes this time of year is temporary.

Councillor T. Chisholm noted that the Department is over the budget for snow removal and asked where the money would come from.

The CAO advised that the department budgets are done on a global basis, but that means the Town endeavours to request each department cover any overages in one account with any conservative estimates they might make in other accounts. He noted that in this case, the hope would be that other accounts in the Public Works department are sufficiently low enough to cover most of the over expenditure in snow and ice control.

Councillor R. Tynes noted that the Vera Clyde tree sculpture was damaged a few months ago and asked when repairs would be completed.

The Director of Recreation advised that the Town's Urban Tree Coordinator was working having the sculpture repair and that he would pass along Council's desire to have it fixed as soon as possible.

Councillor R. Tynes requested that report be provided to Council at next month's meeting.

Councillor T. Chisholm advised that the sculpture was discussed at a recent Tree Committee meeting and that the Committee wanted the work completed for the summer.

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

Parks, Recreation and Culture Report

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

The Mayor asked if the budget request in the report could go to budget deliberations.

The CAO advised that the preparation of the budget by the Director of Recreation will be presented to Council for consideration as part of the global budget. He noted that what Council decides to do with capital budgets this year and reserving those for next year will be a decision Council will make at that time.

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

Safety Coordinators Report

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

On motion of Councillor T. Chisholm and Deputy Mayor D. Joseph, it was moved that the Safety Coordinators Report for the month of February, 2014 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Deputy Mayor D. Joseph invited Council and the public to celebrate the 30th birthday of the Truro Sports Heritage Awards Dinner on Thursday night.

Councillor R. Tynes asked that Council consider its commitment to equity and diversity and ensure that the Town's departments represent this commitment.

Councillor R. Tynes stated that he believed two separate reports were given regarding the RECC, one to Truro Town Council and another to County of Colchester Council, specifically that Colchester County received information that the Town did not. He advised that he was rejecting the presentation that was made to Council last month from the RECC.

The CAO advised that it is normally Council's position to consider the RECC budget during Town budget deliberations.

On motion of Councillors R. Tynes and G. MacArthur, it was agreed that further information would be requested from the RECC, including information regarding salary increases for all employees, as well as a copy of the proposed power rate budget that was presented and the recommendations. Motion carried.

Councillor T. Chisholm noted that the newspaper reported that the General Manager of the RECC was to receive a large pay increase, and also read that the estimates for electricity were based on no water in the pool and no one in the building. He asked if this was presented to the operating board at any time.

The Mayor noted that the wage increase was not accurate, that the amount noted as a range and any raise given to the General Manager would be more along the lines of a cost of living raise.

The CAO stated that the operating board was originally presented with a series of estimates for costs, including costs regarding electricity costs associated with operating a facility of that size and nature. The power costs estimates were significantly different once the facility was opened and operating. It has been determined that there is still some fine tuning of the system that is required in order to reduce those costs.

Councillor G. MacArthur stated that the original estimate for power consumption was approximately \$360,000 based on an empty building, and that the RECC was told to put \$560,000 in their budget which they did not do.

Councillor C. Fritz advised that Saturday is International Women's Day, and there is an "Inspiring Change" event happening that everyone should attend. Information can be found on the Central Nova Women's resource centre.

NEW BUSINESS

a) Amendments to Conference & Travel Policy

The CAO advised amendments were being proposed for the Conference & Travel Policy. The proposed amendment allows two citizen members of a committee the ability to attend a conference should the budget support that request, and that any Council members who were members of that committee could attend, subject to the availability of funds in their expense budget.

On motion of Deputy Mayor D. Joseph and Councillor T. Chisholm, the proposed amendment to the Conference & Travel Policy was approved as presented. Motion carried.

b) Summer Student Hiring Policy

The CAO advised that a policy for the hiring of summer students was being proposed as the Town does not currently have a policy. He noted that it was felt by some members of Council that a policy identifying the hiring process could be in order prior to Council actually beginning its hiring process. The proposed motion was: that the hiring and termination of summer student staff be at the sole discretion of the Human Resource Officer and that all communications with the Human Resource Officer or other town staff by any member of the executive council or any member of Council in connection with any such hiring or termination decision is prohibited and shall be disregarded by the Human Resource Officer.

Councillor B. Kinsman asked that the motion, when made, read that “such action shall be reported to the Mayor and CAO”.

Councillor T. Chisholm advised that he was one of the Councillors who was requesting a policy be put in place. He also suggested that summer students be limited to a two year employment with the Town, so that many students in the area are given an opportunity to work for the Town and gain work experience.

The Town Solicitor asked that the reference to “executive Council” be changed to “Town Council” and the motion should say that “that communication with the Human Resource Officer or other town staff by any member of Town Council in an attempt to influence individual decisions of hiring and termination are prohibited, be reported to Mayor and Council”.

On motion of Councillor T. Chisholm and Deputy Mayor D. Joseph, it will be a policy of the Town of Truro that the hiring and termination of summer student staff be at the sole discretion of the Human Resource Officer and that all communication with the Human Resource Officer or other town staff by any member of Town Council to influence individual hiring or termination decisions are prohibited and shall be reported to the Mayor and Council. Motion carried.

ACCOUNTS

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

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Councillors G. MacArthur and R. Tynes, it was moved that the meeting be adjourned at approximately 3:30 p.m. Motion carried.

W.R. (Bill) Mills
Mayor

J.K. Langille
CAO