



Truro Town Council Meeting
Monday, April 6th, 2015
Council Chambers – Civic Building

2

A regular public meeting of Truro Town Council was held on Monday, April 6th, 2015 at 1:00 pm in the Council Chambers of the Truro Civic Building.

Present: Mayor W.R. (Bill) Mills, Deputy Mayor R. Tynes, Councillors B. Kinsman, D. Joseph, C. Fritz, 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, Deputy Town Solicitor C. Thompson and CAO M. Dolter

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Deputy Mayor R. Tynes and Councillor T. Chisholm, the minutes of the Public Council Meeting held March 2nd, 2015 were approved as circulated. Motion carried.

MOTIONS AND NOTICES OF MOTIONS

a) Public Hearing – 444 Prince Street, Development Agreement Application

The CAO reviewed a letter received from the Town Planning Advisory Committee, recommending that Council consider approving one additional unit in an existing converted two unit dwelling at 444 Prince Street.

On motion of Councillors G. MacArthur and T. Chisholm, the development agreement application for 444 Prince Street to allow one additional unit in an existing converted two unit dwelling was approved as presented. Motion carried.

b) Public Hearing – 294 Willow Street, Rezone Institutional to General Commercial

The CAO reviewed a letter received from the Town Planning Advisory Committee, recommending that Council consider rezoning lands at 298 Willow Street from the Industrial 3 zone to the General Commercial C4 zone, to allow for expansion of potential development opportunities.

On motion of Deputy Mayor R. Tynes and Councillor C. Fritz, the rezoning of 294 Willow Street to the General Commercial C4 zone was approved as presented. Motion carried.

c) Budget Resolutions – 2015/16

Deputy Mayor R. Tynes provided the budget presentation for the 2015/16 fiscal year. The presentation reviewed the highlights of the budget. The Residential tax rate will increase by 2 cents to \$1.80 per \$100 of assessment and the Commercial tax rate will increase by 1 cent to \$4.47 per \$100 of assessment.

Deputy Mayor R. Tynes presented the resolution to establish the tax rate for the 2015/16 fiscal year, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

Councillor T. Chisholm noted in the budget the Town is investing into William Barnhill Drive to open up land in the Business Park for development, putting in a roundabout at McClure's Mills Road. He stated that he wanted residents to know that the Town is responsible for all of the streets within the Town boundaries, from snow plowing to salting to repairs to repaving. And the County of Colchester does not have the same responsibilities in the County, and therefore their taxes are not as high. The Province of Nova Scotia pays for the road repairs and paving and plowing. Councillor T. Chisholm stated that he would like to see the province take over roads for the whole province and perhaps all the towns would be in better shape, budget wise.

The Mayor stated that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities did try to move ahead with a fair and equitable funding program with the provincial government, but the government would not proceed.

On motion of Deputy Mayor R. Tynes and Councillor G. MacArthur, the resolution was approved and the tax rates for the 2015/16 fiscal year were adopted as presented. Motion carried.

d) Water Utility Budget

The CAO advised that a motion was being sought for approval of the 2015/16 Water Utility Budget. The Director of Finance reviewed the highlights of the water utility budget. She noted that the projected revenue is \$1,176,804 with projected expenses of \$1,174,665. Director of Finance stated that this budget is based upon the rates and the expenses and revenues as established by the Utility and Review Board.

On motion of Deputy Mayor R. Tynes and Councillor C. Fritz, it was moved to approve the Water Utility Budget for the 2015/16 fiscal year as presented. Motion carried.

e) Tax Exemptions – 2015/16

Deputy Mayor R. Tynes presented the resolution to establish the property tax exemption level of less than \$201 for the 2015/16 fiscal year, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

On motion of Deputy Mayor R. Tynes and Councillor T. Chisholm, the property tax exemption level was adopted as presented. Motion carried.

f) Public Hearing Date – 21 Pleasant Street, Development Application

The CAO reviewed a letter received from the Town Planning Advisory Committee recommending that Council establish a public hearing date to consider permitting the development of one additional unit in an existing converted two unit dwelling at 21 Pleasant Street.

On motion of Councillors B. Kinsman and T. Chisholm, a public hearing date of May 11th, 2015 was set for Council to consider permitting the Development Agreement Application for 21 Pleasant Street. Motion carried.

PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS**a) Presentation – National Poetry Month**

The Mayor advised that the Mayor of Calgary had issued a Poetry Challenge to other communities across Canada. He noted that the purpose of the challenge was to recognize poetry writing, small presses and the contribution of poets and all writes to the quality of life in our communities. The Mayor advised that Katherine Burriss from Ecole Acadienne would read a few poems from students. Ms. Burriss read a few poems for Council.

IN-CAMERA SUMMARY REPORT

The CAO advised Council that there were five issues discussed by Council at the last In-Camera meeting and there are three issues to be discussed by Council at the incamera meeting today.

COMMITTEE REPORTS**CAO Report**

The CAO report for the month of March was presented to Council.

On motion of Councillors C. Fritz and G. MacArthur, it was moved that the CAO Report for the month of March, 2015 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Finance Report

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

On motion of Councillors D. Joseph and T. Chisholm, it was moved that the Finance report for the month of March, 2015 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Fire Report

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

On motion of Councillors C. Fritz and T. Chisholm, it was moved that the Fire Report for the month of March, 2015 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Planning and Development Report

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

Councillor G. MacArthur advised that he had received word over an issue in Town between two property owners and their shared driveway. He asked if the Town could look into a Bylaw that could deal with shared driveway issues.

It was agreed that the Planning Department would investigate and report back to Council at the next public meeting.

On motion of Councillors G. MacArthur and C. Fritz, it was moved that the Planning and Development report for the month of March, 2015 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Police Report

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

On motion of Deputy Mayor R. Tynes and Councillor G. MacArthur, it was moved that the Police Report for the month of March, 2015 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Public Works Report

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

Councillor G. MacArthur asked if there were any upcoming meetings planned for residents concerned about flooding.

The Director of Public Works advised that the final draft of the Flood Risk Study would be presented at a public meeting, and that meeting would most likely occur in the next month or two.

Councillor B. Kinsman thanked the Public Works staff for looking into the issue of parking at the bottom of Pleasant Street. He advised that if vehicles were parked in a no parking zone, that concerned citizens should call the Truro Police Service.

Councillor C. Fritz passed along her thanks to the Public Works crews for all of their hard work over the last few months with the large amounts of snow and their attempts to keep potholes filled.

Deputy Mayor R. Tynes also thanked staff for their hard work. He asked if there was an update on when the plants would be open with hot asphalt.

The Director of Public Works advised that his department has been making weekly phone calls to the plants and the plants are not projecting any confirmed opening dates as of yet.

On motion of Councillors G. MacArthur and C. Fritz, it was moved that the Public Works Report for the month of March, 2015 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Parks, Recreation and Culture Report

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

On motion of Deputy Mayor R. Tynes and Councillor B. Kinsman, it was moved that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Report for the month of March, 2015 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Safety Coordinators Report

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

On motion of Councillors T. Chisholm and C. Fritz, it was moved that the Safety Coordinators Report for the month of March, 2015 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Councillor T. Chisholm asked if the winter parking ban was over.

The Police Chief advised that it was.

Councillor T. Chisholm asked if the parking ban is reinstated in the event of another large storm.

The Police Chief advised that the Motor Vehicle Act has provisions that cover snow events, so that if the Town parking ban is over and there is another snow storm and a vehicle parked on the street is impeding snow removal any time of the year, it can be ticketed and/or towed. He suggested that residents use common sense and that if there is another storm, to not park on the street.

Councillor B. Kinsman noted that last month he brought forward concerns from residents on Normandy Avenue and North Street area over the stockpiling of snow in that area. He noted that staff were going to look into whether other municipalities had bylaws or anything regarding stockpiling and asked if staff had had an opportunity to do this yet.

The CAO advised that discussions have taken place at a staff level and something may be developed in the next few months. He stated that the Director of Public Works has looked at the current stockpile and is not concerned at this time with the amount of snow, but it will continue to be monitored. The CAO noted that this matter should be approached carefully, as there needs to be some areas that the Town can stockpile snow when the Town receives as much as it has this winter.

Councillor G. MacArthur wished to advise residents that for garbage collection, the Town is not in a "zone". He noted that there were situations this winter where the County announced garbage cancellations due to weather for certain zones and Town residents did not put their garbage out and missed their collection day.

The CAO advised that staff is currently investigating a piece of software that has been budgeted for that will allow the Town to send emails directly to individuals that subscribe regarding anything from garbage collection to recreational activities, etc.

Councillor G. MacArthur noted that there was some discussion at the Provincial government level regarding a film tax cut that he had concerns with.

On motion of Councillors G. MacArthur and T. Chisholm, it was agreed that the Town would send a letter to the Provincial Government asking that they not cut the film tax credit. Motion carried.

Deputy Mayor R. Tynes referred back to the comments made by Councillor T. Chisholm about the responsibility of roads. He noted that there have been studies completed that show 60-70% of use of Town facilities and roads are by people who do not live within the Town boundaries.

Deputy Mayor R. Tynes advised that he and Councillor C. Fritz would be having a meeting in the near future for Ward 1 residents to discuss the proposed roundabout and the issues with Rothsay.

Councillor C. Fritz advised that the meeting would most likely happen in late May or after the Federation of Canadian Municipalities conference.

Councillor C. Fritz noted that the Art Acquisition Show is coming up and the official opening was Wednesday, April 8th at 7pm, not Thursday as indicated on the Town website.

Councillor G. MacArthur asked if there would be a change in Spring clean up collection dates, given the amount of snow that has not melted yet.

The Director of Public Works advised that this was something that staff had already discussed and he was awaiting word back from the balefill facility, but that the Town was considering postponing clean up until the week of May 4th.

Council requested that if the new clean up week of May 4th was confirmed, that staff ensure that this is communicated to residents by all available methods.

Councillor D. Joseph advised that there was a sofa on a snowbank near the corner of Queen and Walker, if staff could look into this as well.

NEW BUSINESS

a) Vacant Building Bylaw – 1st Reading

The CAO advised that staff and the Town Planning Advisory Committee have been working on a draft Vacant Buildings Bylaw that would regulate vacant buildings within the Town and address issues commonly experienced by the Town's Building Inspector, Fire Inspector, and Bylaw Enforcement Officer when dealing with vacant buildings. The Town Planning Advisory Committee was recommending that Council adopt the new bylaw. The CAO advised that today could be considered 1st reading of the Bylaw, with 2nd reading to take place at the May Council meeting.

On motion of Deputy Mayor R. Tynes and Councillor T. Chisholm, 1st reading of the draft Vacant Building Bylaw was approved as presented and 2nd reading would occur at the public Council meeting on May 11th, 2015. Motion carried.

ACCOUNTS

It was moved by Deputy Mayor R. Tynes and Councillors C. Fritz, that Council approve for payment the accounts as presented be approved for the month of March, 2015. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Deputy Mayor R. Tynes and Councillor G. MacArthur, it was moved that the meeting be adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m. Motion carried.

W.R. (Bill) Mills
Mayor

M.W. Dolter
CAO