



Truro Town Council Meeting
Monday, June 15th, 2015
Council Chambers – Civic Building

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A regular public meeting of Truro Town Council was held on Monday, June 15th, 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

Regrets: Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture D. MacKenzie, Director of Public Works A. MacKinnon

In Attendance: Director of Finance A. Currie, Director of Planning J. Fox, Police Chief D. MacNeil, Fire Chief B. Currie, Senior Engineer C. Roberts, Town Solicitor J. Rafferty and CAO M. Dolter

The Mayor asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of Cst. Daniel Woodall, an Edmonton Police Officer killed in the line of duty last week.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The CAO requested that “Presentation re: Rural and Youth Research” and “Updates – War Monuments, Afghanistan and Korean War” be added to the agenda.

On motion of Deputy Mayor R. Tynes and Councillor T. Chisholm, the agenda was approved as amended. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Councillors B. Kinsman and T. Chisholm, the minutes of the Public Hearing and the Public Council Meeting held May 11th, 2015 were approved as circulated. Motion carried.

MOTIONS AND NOTICES OF MOTIONS

a) Public Hearing Date – 573 Young Street, Development Agreement Application

The CAO reviewed a letter received from the Town Planning Advisory Committee, recommending that Council establish a public hearing date to consider approving a proposed development agreement application for 573 Young Street, to permit a multiple unit residential development consisting of a single storey building with a total of four townhouse style dwelling units.

On motion of Councillors T. Chisholm and C. Fritz, a public hearing date of July 6th, 2015 was set for Council to consider permitting the Development Agreement Application for 573 Young Street. Motion carried.

b) Public Hearing Date – 215 Queen Street, Development Agreement Application

The CAO reviewed a letter received from the Town Planning Advisory Committee regarding a development agreement application for 215 Queen Street, for a mixed-use development consisting of two 4-storey 30-35 unit residential buildings with a commercial space and the conversion of an existing 2-storey building to include two residential units and a recreation space. The Committee remained deadlocked on a recommendation for Council as to whether to permit the development or not.

Councillor B. Kinsman advised that he would like to know some of the concerns of the Committee at the public hearing.

The CAO advised that any concerns would be reviewed at the public hearing.

Councillor G. MacArthur asked if all of the information on this project was now public information.

The CAO advised that it was, the staff report once it is presented to the Town Planning Advisory Committee is then posted on the Town’s website.

Deputy Mayor R. Tynes asked if the Police Service, Fire Service and Public Works Department had been consulted about this project.

The CAO advised that if other departments were consulted regarding the project, it would be contained in the Planning Department’s report.

On motion of Councillors B. Kinsman and T. Chisholm, a public hearing date of July 6th, 2015 was set for Council to consider permitting the Development Agreement Application for 215 Queen Street. Motion carried.

PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS

a) Presentation – Heritage Fair Award

The Mayor advised that the winner of this year's Heritage Fair Award was Alicia Terfry, a Grade 4 student at Valley Elementary School and she would be presenting her project for Council today. Alicia then presented to Council.

The Mayor presented her with the award on behalf of the Town.

b) Presentation – Ecology Action

The Mayor advised that this presentation was a result of one that was made at the Atlantic Mayors Congress he attended in April, and he had asked Robin Tress of the Ecology Action Centre to make a presentation to Council today.

Ms. Tress advised that her main focus is to ensure that Nova Scotia's coastal eco systems are protected so that our communities can be prepared for the impacts of climate change. She stated that Nova Scotia had previously discussed a provincial coastal strategy, and one point of it was to prepare for climate change. The Ecology Action Centre wants to revive that strategy, and they want to see the strategy implemented through legislation provincially. Ms. Tress noted that previously, the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities made a resolution calling for a coastal act for Nova Scotia. She requested that the Town send a letter to the UNSM asking them to re-affirm their commitment. She also suggested that the Town could also send a letter to the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture and the Department of Environment to advise them of what actions the Town was taking.

Councillor C. Fritz asked if other provinces in Canada have coastal acts.

Ms. Tress advised that of all the coastal jurisdictions, Nova Scotia and Alaska are the only ones without any coastal strategy of any kind. She noted that not every province has a coastal act, but they do have strategies.

It was agreed that staff would be asked to review the information and draft a resolution for Council consideration and then a letter would be sent to the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities requesting their support for a coastal strategy or act, for consideration at the Fall Conference.

c) Presentation re: Rural and Youth Research

Meggie MacMichael presented to Council on a number of research projects that have happened in the last few years in the Truro and area concerning young people, migration, both in rural areas and Truro more specifically.

The Mayor thanked her for her presentation and advised that he would pass the information on to the Town's Business Development Officer.

IN-CAMERA SUMMARY REPORT

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CAO Report

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

Deputy Mayor R. Tynes advised that there was a committee that was working on a new website design and Council was asked to submit 10 recommendations or areas of concern about the website to the Committee.

Councillor G. MacArthur advised that he would like to see certain parts of the website updated more frequently, like pictures of Councillors and biographies and committee info for each added.

Councillor G. MacArthur asked for clarification on the new Communications Policy, as he was not sure what comments he could make to media when asked.

The CAO advised that there is nothing in the Communications Policy that prohibits a Council member who is contacted for comment from making a comment, so long as it is clear that they are speaking on their behalf only, and not Council's.

Councillor G. MacArthur expressed concern about reading about issues in the newspaper before he was notified by Town staff, as he felt that Council should be notified first.

The Mayor advised that some issues are very fast moving and demand an immediate response and there is not always time to notify Council of every issue at the very minute it is happening.

Councillor G. MacArthur also expressed concern about the FCM exchange program discussed in the CAO's report, as he wanted the exchange program to maintain a teamwork approach.

The CAO advised that the choice of a team or single member is FCM's choice, and that this is a different strategy than the recent successful Bolivia mission.

On motion of Deputy Mayor R. Tynes and Councillor B. Kinsman, it was moved that the CAO Report for the month of May, 2015 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Finance Report

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

On motion of Deputy Mayor R. Tynes and Councillor C. Fritz, it was moved that the Finance report for the month of May, 2015 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Fire Report

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

On motion of Councillor C. Fritz and Deputy Mayor R. Tynes, it was moved that the Fire Report for the month of May, 2015 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Planning and Development Report

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

Councillor D. Joseph noted that many of the violations under the unsightly premises section of the report were from the Ward 3 area, and that there seems to be systemic problem and asked if there was anything Council could do to resolve this.

The CAO advised that it was something the Planning Department would look into, perhaps talking to the property owners before issuing a violation notice. He noted that at times the Bylaw Enforcement Officer may be stretched too thin.

Councillor G. MacArthur stated that he would like the Bylaw reviewed and revised and perhaps change the waiting period or increase the fines or something to deter people.

Deputy Mayor R. Tynes agreed that the timelines should be reviewed, especially when it comes to long grass issues, as by the time all the waiting periods are passed, half of the summer has gone by.

Councillor B. Kinsman wanted to encourage residents that if they see a property that they think is unsightly or falls below a minimum standard, they can call the Town Planning Department and report it and their name will remain confidential.

The CAO advised that the name will remain confidential, except for on the rare occasion where the issue may end up in court, in which case a person may be required to attend as a witness.

Councillor B. Kinsman asked if there was a reason why the name of the property owner cannot be shown on the staff report.

The Town Solicitor advised that he would have to investigate and determine if the Town was permitted to list them.

Councillor D. Joseph asked if the type of property could be defined on the report, such as whether it is a house or an apartment building.

The Town Solicitor advised that adding the type of property was permitted.

Councillor T. Chisholm advised that he agreed with the other Councillors on this matter. He stated that he was bothered by the repeat offenders and would like to see the fines increased. Councillor T. Chisholm also noted that he has been told that people leave the mess until the Town comes in and cleans it up and bills them because it's cheaper.

The CAO stated that he recently learned that there is a property in Town that the Town has been routinely cutting the grass for, and he believed it was a cost of \$20 per hour to the property owner. He agreed that the Bylaw needs to be revised.

Councillor C. Fritz asked that the Bylaw also be reviewed, and amendments proposed regarding absentee landlords.

The Mayor advised that staff would review the Bylaw and also contact other municipalities, the UNSM and/or FCM to canvas them for similar bylaws or programs.

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

Police Report

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

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

Public Works Report

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

Deputy Mayor R. Tynes asked for an update on line painting, and noted that he thought the Town had purchased its own line painting equipment.

The Senior Engineer advised that line painting equipment was purchased two years ago, but the department primarily uses it when they disrupt the street surface and need to paint the lines back on, in-between the yearly painting. He stated that the contractor is much quicker in applying the yearly line painting. The Senior Engineer advised that, weather permitting, the lines should be finished by the end of the week.

Councillor D. Joseph asked about the work being completed on the Esplanade and if the paving would be completed soon.

The Senior Engineer advised that the work being completed, such as lowering valves and manholes, was in preparation for the milling work that would hopefully be completed within the next week.

Councillor B. Kinsman noted that that street seemed to fall apart very quickly and easily for the winter, and asked if when the Town tenders asphalt work, if the asphalt is tested beforehand.

The Senior Engineer advised that the department does not test the asphalt, but the companies are required to meet provincial standards. He stated that the problem with the Esplanade and Arthur Street appears to be an issue with the bonding between the top and bottom surface and that once water gets in there and exposes the issue, it is difficult to overcome.

Councillor B. Kinsman noted from the report that Carolyn Goodwin was leaving the Tree Committee and she was an excellent addition to the committee and would be missed. He asked for the Mayor to send her a letter thanking her for her years of service in enhancing the Town. The Mayor advised that he would send a letter.

Councillor G. MacArthur asked about the sidewalk on Burnyeat Street, the sections that were still gravel.

The Senior Engineer advised that a decision was made at the time to not install sidewalk and there were no plans in this year's budget to complete a sidewalk.

Councillor G. MacArthur asked that the department ensure that the maintenance of the gravel and removal of weeds was looked after.

Councillor G. MacArthur also asked for an update on the water issues that residents of Coburg Crescent had been experiencing last year.

The Senior Engineer advised that Coburg Crescent issues would be given another look this summer. He noted that there were plans last year to have a joint agreement with the residents to carry a French drain through their backyards, but because the Town did not have agreement from all the property owners, it was impossible to finish the work.

The Mayor requested that the potholes on Prince Street be looked at and repaired.

Councillor C. Fritz noted from the report that 37 of the 50 garden boxes on King Street are in use, and asked if there was a contact person for residents who were interested in having a garden box.

The Senior Engineer advised that anyone interested in one of the garden boxes could contact the Public Works Department.

Deputy Mayor R. Tynes asked for the department to look into the Town's gravel pit between Prince Street and Robie Street, and residents in that area were experiencing a large amount of dust when the Town trucks are traveling through there and loading gravel. He also asked that the height of the gravel pile be looked at to ensure that it is within the Town's bylaws for height.

The Senior Engineer advised that he would look into the controlling of dust in the gravel pit and the height of the pile.

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

Parks, Recreation and Culture Report

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

The Mayor noted that the outside water fountain in Victoria Park has been out of commission for a while and he wanted to have the fountain working for this summer season.

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

Safety Coordinators Report

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

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

QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Deputy Mayor R. Tynes asked if there was a better way the Town could be displaying its art collection, instead of in Council Chambers where it may be rarely seen. He asked if there was a possibility of a room or space at the new library, once completed.

The Mayor advised that he would add it to the agenda for the next Library Construction Committee meeting.

Deputy Mayor R. Tynes noted that with the recent issue at Scotsburn, he wanted to let the public know that Scotsburn has been working with the Town on the issue since everyone became aware of it and that they are a valuable employer in Town. Deputy Mayor R. Tynes stated that he was bothered by the route the County of Colchester took in dealing with the issue, and the comments they made without giving the Town the courtesy of advising the Town as soon as they were aware of the issue.

Councillor G. MacArthur noted that there was recently a situation in which the Deputy Mayor of County made a comment to the press that was not true about the RECC and he wanted to let the public know that the only true announcements about the RECC would come from the General Manager of the RECC or the Chair of the Operating Board. Councillor G. MacArthur also noted that decisions must be approved by both Councils before anything is final.

NEW BUSINESS

a) Citizen Appointments to Truro Industrial Development Society

The CAO advised that the Truro Industrial Development Society had a few vacancies and two names, Steve Johnston and Steve Wilson, have been submitted for Council appointment to the Society.

On motion of Councillors G. MacArthur and T. Chisholm, Steve Johnston and Steve Wilson were appointed to the Truro Industrial Development Society. Motion carried.

b) 1st Reading – Land Use Bylaw Amendment

The CAO advised that amendments to the Land Use Bylaw were being recommended by staff for 1st reading today, and a date for 2nd reading and possible approval to be set. He stated that the proposed Bylaw amendments involve correcting three cross referencing errors in the current flood proofing requirements set out in Section 9.3, as well as correct discrepancies between the current flood proofing requirements and the statements of provincial interests in flood risk areas which are set out in the Municipal Government Act. The amendments also correct minor typographical errors in the text of the Bylaw.

On motion of Councillors T. Chisholm and C. Fritz, 1st reading of amendments to the Land Use Bylaw were approved as presented, with 2nd reading to take place on July 6th, 2015. Motion carried.

c) Polling District Review

The CAO advised that the Town has undertaken a polling district review to be submitted to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board, to confirm the number of councillors and the boundaries of the wards within the Town. Staff was recommending that Council approve the submission of the application to the UARB for a slight variance in the ward boundaries.

On motion of Councillors G. MacArthur and T. Chisholm, approval was granted for staff to submit an application to the Utility and Review Board regarding the polling district review. Motion carried.

d) Updates – War Monuments, Afghanistan and Korean War

The CAO reviewed a letter received from L.M. Boudreau, requesting permission to engrave the name of Corporal T.J. Hamilton, a soldier who died in Afghanistan, onto the cenotaph. The CAO advised that this work could be completed at no cost to the Town and it would be consistent with what we’ve done on that monument.

On motion of Councillors G. MacArthur and T. Chisholm, it was agreed that the name of Corporal T.J. Hamilton would be engraved on the cenotaph. Motion carried.

The CAO noted that there has been some discussion in the past about the names of the Korean War veterans currently on the cenotaph, listed with the World War II veterans, but that the Korean War veterans would like to have their names listed as separate recognition. He advised that the Town will have a monument put in place near the current cenotaph that will list the veterans separately, and this should be unveiled on July 22nd which makes the 62nd anniversary of the end of hostilities in Korea. The CAO stated that the new memorial will be funded by the Korean War Veterans Association.

On motion of Councillors G. MacArthur and T. Chisholm, it was agreed that a new monument for the Korean War veterans would be erected near the cenotaph, with the Korean War Veterans Association funding the monument and installation. Motion carried.

ACCOUNTS

It was moved by Councillors C. Fritz and G. MacArthur, that Council approve for payment the accounts as presented be approved for the month of May, 2015. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Councillors D. Joseph and B. Kinsman, it was moved that the meeting be adjourned at approximately 3:35 p.m. Motion carried.

W.R. (Bill) Mills
Mayor

M.W. Dolter
CAO