



Truro Town Council Meeting
Monday, March 2nd, 2015
Council Chambers – Civic Building

65

A regular public meeting of Truro Town Council was held on Monday, March 2nd, 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, and T. Chisholm

Regrets: Councillor G. MacArthur

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 M. Dolter

Prior to the meeting, the Mayor made a special presentation to Pidge, a local barber, for his contributions to the Town of Truro.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Deputy Mayor R. Tynes and Councillor B. Kinsman, the minutes of the Public Hearing and minutes of the Public Council Meeting held February 2nd, 2015, as well as the minutes of the Public Council Meeting held February 25th, 2015 were approved as circulated. Motion carried.

MOTIONS AND NOTICES OF MOTIONS

a) Public Hearing Date – 444 Prince 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 a Development Agreement Application to consider one additional unit in an existing converted two unit dwelling at 444 Prince Street.

On motion of Councillors B. Kinsman and C. Fritz, a public hearing date of April 6th, 2015 was set for Council to consider a Development Agreement Application to consider one additional unit in an existing converted two unit dwelling at 444 Prince Street. Motion carried.

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

The CAO reviewed a letter received from the Town Planning Advisory Committee, recommending that Council establish a public hearing date to consider a rezoning of 294 Willow Street from Institutional (3) Zone to the General Commercial (C4) Zone, to expand potential redevelopment opportunities for the former Princess Margaret Rose School property.

On motion of Councillors B. Kinsman and C. Fritz, a public hearing date of April 6th, 2015 was set for Council to consider a rezoning of 294 Willow Street from Institutional (3) Zone to the General Commercial (C4) Zone, to expand potential redevelopment opportunities for the former Princess Margaret Rose School property. Motion carried.

PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS

a) Presentation – Property Valuation Services Corporation

Candace Seewald, the area manager for Property Valuation Services Corporation gave a presentation to Council on what the Corporation does and how they do it.

The Mayor thanked her for the presentation.

b) Presentation – Ecole Acadienne, Phase II

DeAnne Pelchat, the School and Community Development Agent for Ecole Acadienne de Truro gave a presentation to Council as an update on the progress of their park. She stated that Phase II was in progress with a few more equipment purchases to be made and installed. It is estimated that the cost will be \$155,393.75 and she was requesting that Council consider a further financial grant of \$5,000 and continued in-kind services.

The Mayor thanked her for the presentation. He advised that Council was starting budget deliberations this week and the request would be added to the discussion.

Councillor C. Fritz asked if the school would be approaching the County of Colchester for funding as well.

Ms. Pelchat advised that the County provided \$40,000 in monetary support last year and the school had been advised that they may not be able to reapply this year, give the substantial amount they have already received.

OLD BUSINESS

a) Farmers' Market Request – HAC & TPAC Review

The CAO advised that at last month's Council meeting, a letter from the Farmer's Market was presented, requesting permission for the Farmers' Market to establish a teaching garden and play area. At that time, Council forwarded the letter to a number of Town committees for review and recommendation back to Council. The CAO advised that recommendations had been received from the Heritage Advisory Committee and the Town Planning Advisory Committee.

The CAO reviewed the letter from the Town Planning Advisory Committee. The Committee expressed concerns with the loss of programmable space on the site, the close proximity to a busy intersection and the impact that the use may have on a proposed Civic Block landscaping plan. The Committee supports the idea, but not the location, and was recommending that Council consider not approving the request.

The CAO reviewed the letter from the Heritage Advisory Committee. The Committee expressed concerns with regard to the development of a landscaping plan for the Civic Block and was recommending that if Council approves the request, that they approve it on a temporary basis. The CAO noted that the request was also reviewed by the Recreation Committee, who also thought it was a good idea, but had concerns as well and deferred to the Town Planning Advisory Committee for a final recommendation.

On motion of Deputy Mayor R. Tynes and Councillor T. Chisholm, it was agreed that the Town would work with the Farmers' Market to determine if the plans could move forward, but in a way that would ease the concerns of staff, committees and Council. Motion carried.

IN-CAMERA SUMMARY REPORT

The CAO advised Council that there were four land issue, one legal issue and one Human Resources issue discussed by Council at the last In-Camera meeting and there are two issues to be discussed by Council at the incamera meeting today.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CAO Report

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

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

Finance Report

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

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

Fire Report

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

Deputy Mayor R. Tynes asked if the Town has a program where residents can request a home inspection from the Fire Department.

The Fire Chief advised that there is a program and it's voluntary; residents can call and set it up and their fireplaces, electrical panels and smoke detectors can be checked.

Deputy Mayor R. Tynes suggested between the Fire Department and Police Department and the Town newsletter, perhaps something could go out to residents.

The CAO advised that staff could look into what useful material could be sent out with the newsletters. He also suggested that when the website is revamped, more information could be posted there.

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

Planning and Development Report

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

Deputy Mayor R. Tynes noted that he received an email about an ongoing parking or right of way issue and asked if that was included in the report.

The Mayor advised that in a manner of speaking, yes. A letter was received this morning and it has been passed on to the CAO and to Town Solicitor.

On motion of Councillors T. Chisholm and B. Kinsman, it was moved that the Planning and Development report for the month of February, 2015 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Police Report

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

Councillor D. Joseph noted that parking on residential streets was an issue these days, with the size of the snowbanks, and that sometimes when cars park on both sides of a street, it is difficult to drive down the street. He asked if there was a bylaw that could be implemented to deal with this issue.

The Police Chief advised that if there are "No Parking" signs, then that can be enforced, but most streets do not have those signs. He noted that it might be difficult to pass the bylaw and enforce it. He stated that people should be cautious of where they park and use some courtesy.

Councillor T. Chisholm asked if a driver could be issued a ticket for driving with snow on their vehicle roof.

The Police Chief advised that under the Motor Vehicle Act, all of the windows must be clear of snow and ice, but that there is not a law regarding snow on the roof. However, you could be liable in a collision if it results from snow on your roof.

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

Public Works Report

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

The Mayor stated that on behalf of Council and citizens, he wanted to thank the Public Works crews for their hard work in keep the streets and sidewalks as clear as possible with the amount of snow that has been received.

On motion of Councillor T. Chisholm and Deputy Mayor R. Tynes, it was moved that the Public Works Report for the month of February, 2015 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.

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

QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Councillor T. Chisholm stated that summer student hiring was coming up and he asked that all staff and Council allow the Human Resources Officer to do her job and not interfere with the hiring process. He was also curious if other municipal units had a cap on how many years a summer student could return.

The CAO advised that staff would look into that and determine what other municipalities were doing.

Deputy Mayor R. Tynes thanked Council for their support for African Heritage Month last month and the event at the Marigold Centre that was well attended. He also thanked the Police Service for their participation in a basketball game with Town youth.

Deputy Mayor R. Tynes asked if Councillor C. Fritz had an update on an upcoming Ward 1 meeting that was being planned.

Councillor C. Fritz advised that she was hoping to have a meeting in late April.

Councillor B. Kinsman advised that he had received a letter expressing concern about on street parking and traffic flows near the intersection of Pleasant and Prince streets, especially where Pleasant Street narrows.

The Director of Public Works, who is also the Traffic Authority, advised that he checked the area last week and the "No Parking" signs were placed where he assumed they would be. He stated that now that he had the specifics of the issue, he would look at the area in more detail.

Councillor B. Kinsman advised that he had received calls from residents of Normandy Avenue who were concerned about the large stockpile of snow in the floodplain area and he asked if there was a way to regulate that.

The Director of Planning advised that he was not familiar with any other municipalities regulating the stockpiling snow as a land use and the Town does not have any current Bylaws in place to deal with the issue. He stated that he could look into whether other municipalities had such Bylaws.

The CAO advised that the Director of Public Works checked the stockpile a few weeks ago and at that point, he was satisfied with the amount of snow and the drainage in the area. He advised that the Director would take another look.

Councillor D. Joseph noted that the potholes were beginning to appear and asked if there was a remediation plan.

The Director of Public Works advised that as soon as there were a few nice days, they could begin to patch some of the potholes.

The CAO noted that residents should be aware that potholes always appear at this time of year and speed is going to be a factor in the amount of damage one might do to their vehicle.

NEW BUSINESS

a) Letter from Premier McNeil re: Justice Centre

The CAO reviewed a letter received from Premier McNeil in response to one the Town had sent expressing disappointment about the halt to construction of a new Justice Centre in the area. The Premier stated that the project has been deferred at this time but that staff were looking at ways to upgrade the existing buildings.

b) Letter from Canada Post

The CAO reviewed a letter received from Canada Post in response to a letter from the Town. The letter stated that the Town's concerns have been forward to Mr. Deepak Chopra, President and Chief Executive Officer of Canada Post.

c) Purchasing Card Policy

The CAO advised that staff was recommending that Council approve a new Purchasing Card Policy. The Policy will create a more efficient, cost effective method for purchasing and payment of small dollar transactions. The program is designed to replace a variety of processes, including petty cash, low volume purchase orders, cash advances, cash expense purchases and certain purchase orders.

On motion of Deputy Mayor R. Tynes and Councillor B. Kinsman, the Purchasing Card Policy was approved as presented. Motion carried.

ACCOUNTS

It was moved by Councillors D. Joseph and T. Chisholm, that Council approve for payment the accounts as presented be approved for the month of February, 2015. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Deputy Mayor R. Tynes and Councillor D. Joseph, it was moved that the meeting be adjourned at approximately 2:40 p.m. Motion carried.

W.R. (Bill) Mills
Mayor

M.W. Dolter
CAO