



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

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A regular public meeting of Truro Town Council was held on Monday, November 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, C. Fritz, D. Joseph, G. MacArthur and T. Chisholm

In Attendance: Director of Corporate Services A. Currie, Fire Chief B. Currie, Director of Planning J. Fox, Director of Public Works A. MacKinnon, Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture D. MacKenzie, Police Chief D. MacNeil, Deputy Town Solicitor C. Thompson and CAO M. Dolter

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The CAO requested that “Resignation from Tourism Committee” be added to the agenda under New Business.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Councillors T. Chisholm and C. Fritz, the Public Hearing minutes of the October 7th, 2015 Council meeting, and the Public Council minutes of October 5th, 7th and 19th, 2015 were approved as circulated. Motion carried.

MOTION AND NOTICES OF MOTIONS

a) Public Hearing Date – 474 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 development agreement for 474 Young Street, for the purposes of permitting a one 50 unit four-storey residential building.

On motion of Councillors B. Kinsman and G. MacArthur, a hearing date of Monday, December 7th at 7:00pm was established for Council to consider a development agreement for a one 50 unit four-storey residential building at 474 Young Street. Motion carried.

b) Public Hearing Date – 199 Willow 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 an application by Meech Holdings Limited to amend a 2008 Development Agreement to permit two new 6 unit residential buildings at 199 Willow Street.

On motion of Councillors B. Kinsman and G. MacArthur, a hearing date of Monday, December 7th at 1:00pm was established for Council to consider an application by Meech Holdings Limited to amend a 2008 Development Agreement to permit two new 6 unit residential buildings at 199 Willow Street. Motion carried.

c) Public Hearing Date – Amendments to Land Use Bylaw re: Commercial Vehicles

The CAO reviewed a letter received from the Town Planning Advisory Committee, recommending that Council establish a public hearing date to consider proposed amendments to the Land Use Bylaw to define a commercial motor vehicle based on the number of axels and length rather than tare weight.

On motion of Councillors B. Kinsman and G. MacArthur, a hearing date of Monday, December 7th at 1:00pm was established for Council to consider proposed amendments to the Land Use Bylaw to define a commercial motor vehicle based on the number of axels and length rather than tare weight. Motion carried.

IN-CAMERA SUMMARY REPORT

The CAO advised Council that there were six issues discussed by Council at the last In-Camera meeting and there are no issues to be discussed by Council at the incamera meeting today.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CAO Report

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

Councillor G. MacArthur noted that he was concerned about recent announcement of a cut of \$50,000 to the funding to the Central Nova Tourist Association, which covers the entire central Nova Scotia region. He stated that the Association would be making a presentation to Town Council at some point, and he would like to see representatives from each community come together for a meeting to discuss the impact this reduction in funding may have.

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

Finance Report

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

Deputy Mayor R. Tynes noted that since the new Town branding has been approved, he would like to see the website committee meet again in the near future to work on rolling it out on the website.

The Director of Finance stated that she will arrange a meeting of the committee.

Councillor C. Fritz noted that Municipal Awareness Week was coming up this month and she would like the Town to arrange some events and have the Mayor prepare a proclamation for that week.

The Mayor advised that he would prepare a proclamation.

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

Fire Report

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

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

Planning and Development Report

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

Councillor G. MacArthur requested that the Planning Department look into having another public information session in the new year regarding property information such as zoning and regulations, etcetera.

The Mayor suggested that the session be held in April or May.

Deputy Mayor R. Tynes requested that the Planning Department conduct a review of the Town's zoning policies and bylaws and come back with recommendations on amendments.

The Director of Planning stated that he would make note of those requests.

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

Police Report

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

Councillor T. Chisholm advised that he was receiving complaints regarding speeding in the Young Street area, especially around the school, and asked the Police Chief if it was regularly patrolled. The Police Chief stated that it was. Councillor T. Chisholm noted that there was only one ticket for speeding on Young Street in the Police Report.

The Police Chief advised that the speed radar trailer had been set up in the area over a few day period one week and again the following week, and while there were some speeds, they were not excessive. He stated that officers did patrol the area as well, but they cannot be there all of the time, but it is an area they monitor consistently.

Councillor T. Chisholm asked if there was a way to slow traffic down, something that could be done to the street itself.

The Police Chief advised that he didn't think speedbumps or anything like that would be a good idea, but that the department would continue with the speed trailer and monitoring.

Councillor C. Fritz asked if there were flashing lights in that area, maybe something to consider for when school was in session.

Councillor C. Fritz noted that there were a few of the speed bumps in the Millbrook area and plowing season was coming, and she asked how that works.

The Director of Public Works advised that the speedbump effectiveness in terms of slowing people down has not been determined yet. He stated that Millbrook installed the speedbumps, and they are removed before plowing season.

Councillor G. MacArthur noted that in a recent magazine article he read, concern was raised over the amount of assaults occurring on native reserves and he thought it was something that the Town should really ensure is on our radar.

Councillor C. Fritz stated that she was attending a session later this week on that topic. She also noted that someone would be contacting the Police Chief soon to discuss the new Missing and Exploited Persons Act.

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

Public Works Report

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

The Mayor noted that with regards to the scheduled tulip planting this week, that the majority of Council would be at the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities conference, but Council sends along their best wishes and recognizes the friendship between the two countries and Canada's contribution by our veterans to the liberation of Holland.

Councillor D. Joseph asked if the parking issue on Queen and Walker streets had been investigated yet.

The Director of Public Works stated that No Parking signs have been installed on Queen across from the McDonald's and Wilsons Gas for the first couple hundred feet after the right hand turn.

Councillor D. Joseph asked if there was an update on the sidewalk on the east side of south Young Street.

The Director of Public Works advised that staff were looking into that area last week but he did not have an update at this time.

Councillor T. Chisholm advised that he had received complaints about the dim streetlights on Dominion Street and asked if Nova Scotia Power would be installing the LED lights.

The Director of Public Works advised that Nova Scotia Power is in the process of replacing street lights with the new LED bulbs, but it was based on maintenance, or as lights burnt out. He stated that he would call and advise of the dim lights and see if they could be replaced.

The Mayor noted that the lights on Outram Street and around the Truro Centre were also dim or burnt out.

The Director of Public Works stated that those lights are cost shared with the owner of the Truro Centre, but that he would also look into that area.

Deputy Mayor R. Tynes noted that on west Prince Street, there is a manhole cover that is approximately 8 inches below the pavement, sunk down, and he would like to show the Director of Public Works a few areas in that section of Town. He also noted that there seemed to be a lot of water breaks in the Business Park area, and asked if there was an issue with pipes in that area.

The Director of Public Works advised that it is a high pressure area, but that the pipe from the 1960s was a poor product and those areas are in the long term program for replacement.

Deputy Mayor R. Tynes noted that the Town has completed a lot of work over the past few years with regards to flood mitigation, especially in the river area and the silt removed from there. He asked if there was a plan in place to ensure that it does not get back to the point where the river is full of silt again.

The Director of Public Works stated that most of the work will require future maintenance, but that the way the river was reshaped, it will help maintain the removal of the silt.

Councillor G. MacArthur asked if a meeting had been scheduled yet with residents regarding updates on the flood risk study.

The Director of Public Works advised that the flood risk study is almost complete and the working group will then review it and then call a meeting of the Joint Flood Advisory Committee, which should occur this month. After that, a public presentation will be arranged.

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

Parks, Recreation and Culture Report

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

Councillor G. MacArthur advised that the Recreation Department is in talks with Cross Country Ski Nova Scotia with regards to partnering with them to use Victoria Park trails and that area as a base.

On motion of Councillors G. MacArthur and C. Fritz, it was moved that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Report for the month of October, 2015 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Safety Coordinators Report

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

On motion of Deputy Mayor R. Tynes and Councillor T. Chisholm, it was moved that the Safety Coordinators Report for the month of October, 2015 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Deputy Mayor R. Tynes noted that Town reps had a meeting a while ago with CN in which the new president or chair was introduced, and the Town was told that one of his priorities would be working with communities to address any concerns with business opportunities, and perhaps the Town should send a follow up letter to request a meeting in Truro.

The Mayor noted that he delivered a letter to Nancy MacKay with CN at the FCM Conference in June, and asked if the Town had received a response yet.

The CAO advised that no response has been received.

Councillor D. Joseph stated that he had taken the new president or chair to a few areas in Town that were of concern, like the Munroe Court area, and he did not know where that issue stood with CN now.

It was agreed that another letter outlining the Town's concerns would be sent to CN and a meeting requested.

Councillor B. Kinsman noted that with regards to the discussion about speeding on Young Street, that the street is a bit wider through that section and he believed that the wider the street, the faster the traffic goes. He asked if the Public Works Department has considered any traffic calming methods in that area. He stated that on recent trips to the New England area, their crosswalks have pylons in the middle of the street with signs that say pedestrians have the right of way, and that seemed to be an effective way of slowing traffic in those areas.

The Director of Public Works stated that he has also has seen those pylons in New England and he thinks they are very effective, but it is not part of the Nova Scotia legislation, but he has been asking and pushing for it. He noted that as for how wide Young Street is, it was built way too wide but was planned as truck route, which it is now not used for. The Director of Public Works advised that he would look into some traffic calming methods.

Councillor B. Kinsman noted that the stadium parking lot seemed to be very dark, and asked if lights were burnt out or if more lights should be installed.

The Recreation Director advised that he would have staff check and ensure that existing lighting is working, and if more is required, he could come back with a recommendation to Council.

Councillor T. Chisholm asked where the Town was with regards to the deer issue.

The Director of Public Works advised that the deer pamphlet would be going out with the water bills, to remind people to not feed the deer. He stated that the Town could meet with the Department of Natural Resources again.

The CAO advised that there were not a lot of solutions short of performing a cull. He stated that even a bow cull presents problems such as control and regulation. He suggested talking to DNR about the possibility of tranquilizing and the relocating the deer, but they are creatures of habit and could find their way back.

Councillor C. Fritz stated that she thought a community in New Brunswick performed a deer cull, so perhaps how they regulated that could be investigated.

Councillor D. Joseph stated that a few of his constituents have a great deal of knowledge about wildlife and perhaps they could be consulted as well.

Councillor G. MacArthur asked about the possibility of a birth control method being employed.

The CAO advised that that question has been asked of DNR and the Town is not permitted to use any type of oral contraceptive.

The CAO stated that he did a quick search on his cell phone regarding the New Brunswick cull, and noted that it was a minimum distance of 400 metres with a rifle and less with a bow, but in an urban setting like Truro, you are not going to get a 400 metre distance.

Councillor G. MacArthur read a press release regarding his recent personal issues: “For close to three decades, I have served as a proud member of the Canadian Forces with an unblemished career. I was stunned and dismayed by the recent charges of fraud and breach of trust. I have always and unequivocally maintained my innocence and so it was obviously a great relief that after an extensive investigation into these charges, all have been withdrawn. The past three months have been difficult for both me and my family but with this vindication, we now wish to move this unfortunate matter behind us and move forward. My commitment to the Town of Truro Council has never wavered and I look forward to continuing in my capacity as Town Councillor and my work on all the committees that I am on. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to my family, my friends, the community, my Council colleagues who stood by me during this difficult time and who had faith in me and my innocence and character and I do thank you from the bottom of my heart”.

NEW BUSINESS

a) Letter from Public Health Services

The CAO reviewed a letter from Public Health Services, congratulating the Town on making changes to the Town Bylaw regarding the use of e-cigarettes, for Council’s information.

b) Amendments to No Smoking Bylaw

The CAO advised that the previous letter from Public Health Services was appreciated, but a little premature at this point. He stated that during the last Council meeting, there was a presentation on e-cigarettes and Council had agreed to make amendments to the No Smoking Bylaw to include e-cigarettes. The CAO advised that staff was conducting research and working on wording for the amendments that should be presented for first reading at the December Council meeting.

c) Sale of Lands – old Truro Junior High Property

The CAO advised that the Town has received a letter of intent to enter into a Purchase and Sale Agreement on a portion of the former Truro Junior High Lands, at 180 Victoria Street. The potential purchaser wishes to purchase the land, with the intent to enter into a Development Agreement for the development of a four storey, 50 unit multi-residential building, worth \$6.5 million. The potential purchaser has offered \$200,000 for the land.

Councillor B. Kinsman asked if there was a provision in the agreement that would allow the Town to reacquire the property if there was no development within a set period of time.

The CAO advised that there are timelines within development agreements, and if those timelines are not met, then the Town has the option to reacquire. He stated that the timeline projected by the developer at this point is fairly aggressive.

On motion of Councillors D. Joseph and G. MacArthur, it was agreed that the Town will enter into an Agreement of Purchase and Sale, as outlined in the Letter of Intent as presented, for a portion of the former Truro Junior High Lands, 180 Victoria Street, including PID #s 20179636, 20179651 and 20179677, with the condition that any required surveying or subdivisions costs are paid by the purchaser. Motion carried.

d) Food Bank Building

The CAO advised that the Town has provided the Food Bank with their building facilities on Lorne Street since their inception. Staff have been working with the Food Bank over the past couple of months as staff has become aware that this facility has passed its service life. As per a letter received from the Food Bank, staff recommend that the Town provide the Basin building facilities to the Food Bank as an interim location.

The Mayor asked if this was on a temporary basis.

The CAO advised that the intent of the Food Bank is to finalize their plans for a new building in the current location and the Basin building would be provided on a temporary basis, which the Food Bank has been advised of.

On motion of Deputy Mayor R. Tynes and Councillor B. Kinsman, it was agreed that the Town would continue to support the Colchester Food Bank by providing the Town building located on the corner of Forrester Street and Esplanade on a temporary lease basis with staff to set the details of the said lease. Motion carried.

e) MGA Review Deadline

The CAO reviewed an email received from the Deputy Minister of Municipal affairs, requesting feedback or input into the Municipal Government Act review that is currently taking place.

f) Letter from Chamber of Commerce

The CAO reviewed a letter sent from the Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce to the President and CEO of the Nova Scotia Health Authority Provincial Office, to bring attention to concerns raised by the business community related to the challenges of obtaining a family physician in the local community. This is for Council’s information.

g) Letter from RCMP

The CAO reviewed a letter received from the Pictou County RCMP with regards to a recent evidence search in Colchester County, and wishing to highlight the importance of the Town’s support to the Colchester Ground Search and Rescue Team. The letter stated that the team had exemplary conduct, a high level of knowledge in search doctrine and a pride in their training and equipment.

h) Resignation from Tourism Committee

The CAO advised that due to work commitments, Jordan LeBlanc has resigned from the Town’s Tourism Committee.

The CAO stated that the vacancy would be advertised.

Deputy Mayor R. Tynes requested that appointment of Deputy Mayor be put on the agenda for the December Council meeting, and then the newly elected Deputy Mayor could begin their duties immediately in the New Year. Council agreed.

ACCOUNTS

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

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Deputy Mayor R. Tynes and Councillor T. Chisholm, 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