



A regular public meeting of Truro Town Council was held on Monday, January 11th, 2016 at 1:00 pm in the Council Chambers of the Truro Civic Building.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Councillors B. Kinsman and T. Chisholm, the Public Hearing minutes and Public Council minutes of December 7th, 2015 were approved as circulated. Motion carried.

MOTION AND NOTICES OF MOTIONS

a) Public Hearing Date – 98 and 102 Ford 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 to permit the development of two three-storey multiple unit residential buildings at 98 and 102 Ford Street.

On motion of Councillors T. Chisholm and D. Joseph, a public hearing date of February 1st, 2016 at 1:00pm was set for Council to consider a Development Agreement Application for 98 and 102 Ford Street. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

a) 2nd Reading – Amendments to Land Use Bylaw re: Commercial Vehicles

The CAO advised that at the December 7th, 2015 Council meeting, Town Council gave approval to first reading of amendments to the Land Use Bylaw regarding Commercial Vehicles. He 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.

Councillor R. Tynes noted that at first reading, he brought up the issue of school buses being affected by the amendments to the Bylaw and asked for a comment on that issue.

The CAO advised that the amendments to the Bylaw would impact school buses because of their length.

Councillor R. Tynes requested that a letter be sent to the school board advising them of the amendments to the Bylaw.

Deputy Mayor C. Fritz asked if it was possible to make an exception for school buses.

The Mayor advised that it was possible, it was up to Council how they wished the Bylaw to be worded.

The CAO stated that the Bylaw could be amended further to exempt school buses, but Council should keep in mind that if exempt, if there was an issue with a school bus due to sight lines or noise levels, other Town Bylaws may not be applicable in order to deal with the complaint received. He also noted that if Council were to make an exemption for school buses, then other residents may request exemptions for other vehicles.

On motion of Councillors G. MacArthur and B. Kinsman, second reading and approval was given to amendments to the Land Use Bylaw, the definitions section and section 4.212, regarding commercial vehicles to define them based on the number of axels and length rather than tare weight, as presented. Motion carried.

b) 2nd Reading – Amendments to No Smoking Bylaw re: e-cigarettes

The CAO advised that at the December 7th, 2015 Council meeting, Town Council gave approval to first reading of amendments to the No Smoking Bylaw regarding e-cigarettes. Council was being asked today to give second reading and approval to the amendments.

On motion of Councillors B. Kinsman and G. MacArthur, second reading and approval was given to amendments to the No Smoking Bylaw regarding e-cigarettes. Motion carried.

IN-CAMERA SUMMARY REPORT

The CAO advised Council that there were three 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 December was presented to Council.

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

Corporate Services Report

The Corporate Services report for the month of December was presented to Council.

On motion of Councillor T. Chisholm and Deputy Mayor C. Fritz, it was moved that the Corporate Services report for the month of December, 2015 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Fire Report

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

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

Planning and Development Report

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

Councillor G. MacArthur asked if the Planning Report was posted to the Town website, and if it is not, he would like to make that suggestion.

The CAO advised that since it is information that is reviewed monthly at a public meeting, it could be something that would be permitted on the website. He stated he would confirm with the Town Solicitor.

Councillor R. Tynes noted that some of the bylaw issues dated back to 2014 on the report and asked about the process of extensions.

The Director of Planning advised that each matter is dealt with on a case by case basis, but for example, a property may require extensive work that takes time and it may not always be financially feasible for the property owner to complete it within a month.

Councillor R. Tynes advised that the Truro Industrial Development Society was having an open house next week on January 19th at the Fire Hall and encourage anyone interested in attending to contact the Town's Business Development Officer.

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

Police Report

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

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

Public Works Report

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

Councillor D. Joseph noted that when there is heavy rainfall, there are a number of streets flood and he asked if the department was doing anything to mitigate the issue.

The Director of Public Works stated that work has been done, and is being done to mitigate those issues. He noted that on Willow Street, the size was increased and the location modified of the outfall in one particular area a few years ago which helped.

Councillor D. Joseph asked if there was a number or website for residents to access for updates in the event of water breaks like those that occurred on the weekend. He asked if residents should be instructed to call the police station for updates.

The Director of Public Works stated that in the event of a water break, the police and fire are advised, and updates are also posted to the Town of Truro facebook page, which is in turn then picked up by the radio stations. He advised that it would be better if the Town advertised a different public service number, like a general inquiry line, for residents to call instead of overloading the police department.

The CAO advised that the Town is working on getting the software up and running that would allow staff to email residents who have signed up with updates and messages, and this is an example of how the software could be used effectively.

Councillor B. Kinsman noted that the Town has an after-hours number that goes through the Police dispatch.

Councillor R. Tynes asked if Council should have access to then number of the supervisor who is on call so that Council can contact them for updates to pass along to residents when they call.

The CAO suggested the Council call the after hours number and the dispatcher can contact the supervisor. He stated that Councillors may not know what the supervisor is busy with, and by going through dispatch, the call can be properly acted upon.

Councillor T. Chisholm thanked the Public Works crews who did a wonderful job on the weekend fixing all of the water breaks. He noted he had spoken to a few of the guys working and they said it was an issue with the pressure release valve at the dam.

The Director of Public Works advised that the pressure release valve essential let go and was stuck in the open position which gave the downtown area an extra 20 to 30 pounds of water pressure Saturday night and caused six water main breaks. He stated that the little control valve on the pressure release valve was replaced and is working again as it should.

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

Parks, Recreation and Culture Report

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

Councillor D. Joseph stated that information came out recently from Trans Canada Trail that suggested Nova Scotia only has 18% of the trail system and asked if the Town was implicated in that figure.

The Recreation Director advised that yes, Truro was, but that he has been working with stakeholders on the possibility of a connection through the downtown core, from Bible Hill through to King Street.

Councillor G. MacArthur asked if the department tracks the economic spinoff of the Long John Festival.

The Recreation Director advised that they have not, as typically events that have an economic spinoff attract people from out of the area, and with this festival, the department typically focuses on people from the Town and communities immediately surrounding it.

It was noted that the Town lost a great friend and volunteer with the recent and sudden passing of Terry Hunt.

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

QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Councillor D. Joseph advised that the Liberal government's election platform was predicated on a budget deficit, and asked if there was any means by which the Town could access funding with respect to the aging infrastructure of the water system.

The Mayor advised that he and the CAO have met with the new MP Bill Casey and discussed the infrastructure and the CAO would be working on the next steps with regards to applications for funding that could be available.

The CAO stated that there would likely be a number of programs available, but they had not been announced yet and therefore the Town could not act on them.

Deputy Mayor C. Fritz asked if there was an update on the deer management plan.

The CAO advised that staff is still reviewing the situation and information. To date, staff have been looking at other programs and have yet to find a successful one. He noted that there would hopefully be a meeting with the Department of Natural Resources in the next week or two. The CAO stated that the focus would be to come up with a plan that was safe.

Councillor R. Tynes stated that the biggest problem with the deer in Town is that people are feeding them, which attracts them and keeps them in Town. He was concerned about ticks they may be carrying and the increase in the occurrence of Lyme disease.

Councillor T. Chisholm noted that he believed the increase in the deer population in Town over the last few years could be attributed to the feeding of deer by residents and asked if the Bylaw Officer was actively enforcing the Bylaw.

The CAO advised that the Bylaw Officer is enforcing the Bylaw, but it's based on a complaint system. He did note that every complaint is acted upon and investigated, and in fact a resident was charged last year with a violation of the Bylaw.

Councillor D. Joseph disagreed about the feeding of the deer as being the main reason why the deer population has moved into Town.

Deputy Mayor C. Fritz stated that deer are not pets, they are wildlife and should be treated as such.

Councillor G. MacArthur noted that the deadline for grant applications had just passed on December 31st and that if organizations did not have their applications in by now, they would not be considered.

Councillor T. Chisholm stated that it seemed like grant requests have seemed to increase over the last few years, and asked if this was actually the case.

The Mayor stated that it was, and that the increase in the number of requests could perhaps be attributed to the economy changes in the last number of years. He noted that the Town has a very active community that comes up with new ideas, but that sometimes the new ideas require funding.

Councillor G. MacArthur stated that he would like to see updates to the Town website that would allow more pictures of activities in the Town to be added and updated Council members pictures.

Councillor R. Tynes wished to pass on condolences to the family of Brian MacLeod on his recent passing. He noted that Mr. MacLeod was a great community member and helped put Truro on the map, especially in the golfing world.

Councillor R. Tynes stated that Town Council recently had a very good joint meeting with the County of Colchester County, and both Councils have agreed to meet on a quarterly basis to discuss joint issues.

Councillor R. Tynes noted that African Heritage Month was coming up in February and the Town would be hosting a launch prior to the public Council meeting on February 1st that everyone is invited too. There are also events planned throughout the month at the Marigold Centre for those interested in attending and those events would be advertised in the near future.

Deputy Mayor C. Fritz echoed those statements, and advised that the launch on February 1st was a reception style event with various speakers.

NEW BUSINESS

a) Palliser Redevelopment Steering Committee Appointments

The CAO advised that Colchester County Council has approved Terms of Reference for the Palliser Redevelopment Steering Committee and has appointed councillors to the Committee. Truro Town Council is being asked to appoint two Council members to serve on the Committee.

On motion of Councillors R. Tynes and T. Chisholm, Deputy Mayor C. Fritz and Councillor G. MacArthur were appointed as members to the Palliser Redevelopment Steering Committee. Motion carried.

b) Truro-Colchester Events Attraction Committee Appointment

The CAO advised that at present, the Truro region has no active event attraction strategy and has found itself in a reactive mode when new event hosting opportunities present themselves. There are many organizations working in silos and overall the region is losing out on opportunities. This has put everyone at a competitive disadvantage in the cutthroat world of event hosting. The CAO stated that it was being proposed that an Event Attraction Committee for the region be formalized to develop an event attraction strategy for the region, and to seek out bid opportunities which fit within that strategy. The committee would advise and make recommendations to Council and the County of Colchester on opportunities for the region. The committee would act as the working body for major event attraction and bid opportunities and provide advice on matters relating to a range of activities relating to event and sport tourism. The CAO advised that the committee would focus on major events which would have a significant economic impact and that would require support (financial or in-kind) from both the Town of Truro and County of Colchester.

On motion of Councillors G. MacArthur and R. Tynes, it was agreed that the Town will endorse the proposed Truro-Colchester Event Attraction Committee as a joint committee between the Town of Truro and the County of Colchester, as outlined in the proposed Terms of Reference, contingent on the County of Colchester approving the same. Motion carried.

c) Request to Discharge Development Agreement – 28 Victoria Street

The CAO advised that the new property owner at 28 Victoria Street was requesting a discharge of a Development Agreement that has been in effect since 1988, which at the time permitted a medical practice for two physicians on the main floor and a dwelling unit on the second floor. The new property owner intends to increase the number of professionals to five and this use is not permitted under the current Development Agreement; however it is permitted by the Land Use Bylaw. Staff is recommending that Council discharge the Development Agreement.

On motion of Councillor R. Tynes and Deputy Mayor C. Fritz, it was moved that the Development Agreement for 28 Victoria Street, registered with the Land Registration Office as Document #5726, be discharged. Motion carried.

d) Appointment to Colchester Regional Economic Development Advisory Committee

The CAO advised that Council had previously approved the Terms of Reference for the Colchester Regional Economic Development Advisory Committee and were being asked at this meeting to appoint a Council member to the Committee. The representative will sit at regular meetings with the other members of the Committee from Colchester County, Stewiacke and Millbrook as part of an initiative to ensure regional cooperation of economic development.

On motion of Councillors R. Tynes and G. MacArthur, Councillor T. Chisholm was appointed to the Colchester Regional Economic Development Advisory Committee. Motion carried.

e) Branding Committee

The CAO advised that in early October, Town Council approved a new brand for the Town of Truro, developed with the assistance of the Branding Task Force. As a next step, Council requested applications for the formation of a Brand Leadership Committee, which will be tasked with the creation of Brand Implementation Strategy and Action Plan. The CAO stated that members of the Committee will be responsible for implementation of a branding strategy and action plan and will ultimately act as champions for the new brand. Members of the Committee will be stakeholders in the community and have a vested interest in the brand. The CAO advised that the Town received interest from 13 individuals who met this criteria, and their names were attached to the proposal for Council consideration.

On motion of Councillor T. Chisholm and Deputy Mayor C. Fritz, the members of the Brand Leadership Committee were approved as presented, with formal Terms of Reference to follow before the first meeting of the Committee. Motion carried.

f) Amendments to Pension Plan for Early Retirees

The CAO advised that the Human Resources Officer was recommending to Council that the Pension Plan for Town employees be amended, specifically Section 8.03, Early Retirement Benefit. Current language allows for early retirement with a reduction of 0.5% for each month by which the retirement date precedes the normal retirement date. Staff was recommending that language be added to confirm that the reduction will be no more than 0.5% for each month by which the retirement date precedes the first of the month, coincident with or immediately following the date on which the age plus continuous service to retirement date is 93.

Councillor B. Kinsman asked if there were any financial implications with these proposed amendments.

The Director of Corporate Services advised that there were no financial implications.

On motion of Councillors D. Joseph and G. MacArthur, the proposed amendment to the Pension Plan for Town employees regarding the Early Retirement Benefit section was approved as presented. Motion carried.

g) Draft Sidewalk Construction Management Policy

The CAO advised that in October, Council agreed to have staff draft a Sidewalk Construction Management Policy to promote sustainable and responsible sidewalk infrastructure management. Staff have since drafted a policy which is before Council today for approval. The CAO stated that the policy is based on replacing existing sidewalks and building new sidewalks only in locations where warranted based on the street classification hierarchy and pedestrian safety. This will enable Council to establish more safe pedestrian sidewalks in areas needed and remove liability of unwarranted sidewalks that have reached or passed the end of their service life. The Policy is similar to other municipality's policies with sustainability plans, promotes walkability of our downtown, and enables a more effective sidewalk capital plan on an annual basis. The CAO noted that another benefit to this policy is that it predetermines sidewalk locations based on serviceability and future maintenance costs.

Councillor G. MacArthur asked if the policy would affect the patching of sidewalks on secondary streets.

The CAO advised that the Policy will allow sidewalks to be based on a classification system established by the Public Works Department, who would take into consideration the level of traffic and safety issues and those streets requiring sidewalks on both sides would maintain sidewalks on both sides. He noted that if a street was deemed safe enough and had a low enough level of traffic, then perhaps sidewalk on one side would be removed and grassed over.

Councillor B. Kinsman noted that a year or so ago, the Town advised residents on a street that they would lose their sidewalk on one side of the street and they felt strongly that they wanted to keep it and that is what the Town ended up doing. He stated that with the new policy, there is no recourse for residents to express their wishes to Council.

The CAO stated that if the policy is approved, Council would be made aware of any changes to the number of sidewalks on any given street and presented with data and information to back up the decision.

On motion of Councillors R. Tynes and G. MacArthur, the Sidewalk Construction Management Policy was approved as presented. Motion carried.

ACCOUNTS

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

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Councillors R. Tynes and 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