



Truro Town Council Meeting
Monday, March 7th, 2016 at 3:00pm
Council Chambers – Civic Building

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A regular public meeting of Truro Town Council was held on Monday, March 7th, 2016 at 3:00 pm in the Council Chambers of the Truro Civic Building.

Present: Mayor W.R. (Bill) Mills, Deputy Mayor C. Fritz, Councillors D. Joseph, R. Tynes, G. MacArthur and T. Chisholm

Regrets: Councillor B. Kinsman and Fire Chief B. Currie

In Attendance: Director of Corporate Services A. 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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Deputy C. Fritz and Councillor G. MacArthur, the Public Hearing Minutes and Public Council minutes of February 1st, 2016 were approved as circulated. Motion carried.

MOTION AND NOTICES OF MOTIONS

a) Public Hearing – 180 Victoria 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 two 50-unit, 4-storey residential buildings.

The Director of Planning reviewed his final report with Council and was recommending that Council approve the development agreement application.

On motion of Councillors G. MacArthur and R. Tynes, it was agreed that Council will enter into a development agreement with Smartland Developments Incorporated and permit two 50-unit, 4-storey residential buildings at 180 Victoria Street. Motion carried.

b) Public Hearing – Municipal Planning Strategy Amendment, Glenwood Drive

The CAO reviewed a letter received from the Town Planning Advisory Committee, recommending that Council establish a public hearing date to consider amendments to the Municipal Planning Strategy regarding a change to the Future Land Use Designation of lands off Glenwood Drive, from Limited Residential Designation to the General Residential Designation.

The Director of Planning reviewed his final report with Council and was recommending that Council approve the amendments to the Municipal Planning Strategy.

On motion of Councillors G. MacArthur and T. Chisholm, Council approved the amendment to the Municipal Planning Strategy regarding a change to the Future Land Use Designation of lands off Glenwood Drive, to re-designate lands from the Limited Residential Designation to the General Residential Designation on the Future Land Use Map. Motion carried.

c) Public Hearing Date – 140 Dominion 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 permitting a multi-unit residential development consisting of two and a half to four storey building containing 24 dwelling units at 140 Dominion Street. The Committee was recommending an evening public hearing.

On motion of Deputy Mayor C. Fritz and Councillor T. Chisholm, a public hearing date of April 4th, 2016 at 7:00pm was established for Council to consider a development agreement to permit a multi-unit residential development consisting of two and a half to four storey building containing 24 dwelling units at 140 Dominion Street. 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 is one issue 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 G. MacArthur and T. Chisholm, it was moved that the CAO Report for the month of February, 2016 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Corporate Services Report

The Corporate Services report for the month of February 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 February, 2016 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Fire Report

There was no Fire Report for this meeting.

Planning and Development Report

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

On motion of Councillors G. MacArthur and R. Tynes, it was moved that the Planning and Development report for the month of February, 2016 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Police Report

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

On motion of Councillors T. Chisholm and G. MacArthur, it was moved that the Police Report for the month of February, 2016 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Public Works Report

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

Councillor D. Joseph noted that there were some traffic concerns with regards to drivers not stopping at the stop sign from Willow Street on to Prince Street, which makes it difficult and dangerous for drivers trying to exit Commercial or King streets on to Prince Street.

The Director of Public Works advised that he would look into the issue of drivers not stopping at the Willow Street to Prince Street stop sign.

Councillor G. MacArthur asked if any remaining money in the snow budget could be used for sidewalk repair.

The Director of Corporate Services advised that if there is a surplus in an operational budget, it would be transferred to an operating reserve and then Council could decide how to spend the money.

Councillor G. MacArthur asked about clean up dates for Spring clean up. The Director of Public Works advised that it would take place April 18th to April 22nd.

On motion of Deputy Mayor C. Fritz and Councillor T. Chisholm, it was moved that the Public Works Report for the month of February, 2016 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 Deputy Mayor C. Fritz and Councillor D. Joseph, it was moved that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Report for the month of February, 2016 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Councillor R. Tynes asked if there was an update on dust control issues.

The CAO advised that staff is doing some investigation but has not yet made contact with the Department of Environment.

Councillor R. Tynes stated that he has been contacted by some business owners with concerns related to employees from downtown businesses parking in the public parking areas in front of businesses.

Councillor D. Joseph agreed with Councillor R. Tynes about employee parking issues, and the impact this has on customer parking. He noted that the Downtown Truro Partnership published brochures a number of years ago for employees and customers as to where parking was available in the downtown area.

The CAO advised that Town staff were currently in the process of mapping out parking areas within the downtown, to showcase how much parking is available and even show the walking times/distances.

Councillor R. Tynes asked for an update on the Town radio station status.

The CAO advised that the station that the Town currently owns and operates is in violation of the CRTC regulations on maintaining the frequency. He noted that this requires a fairly costly fix and with recent changes to emergency broadcasting through local radio stations that allows the Town to cut in in the event of emergency, the requirement of a Town radio station is questionable moving forward. He stated that staff would likely be bringing a recommendation forward in the near future to discontinue the radio station.

On motion of Councillors R. Tynes and G. MacArthur, it was agreed that the Town radio station would be discontinued. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

a) Letter from Angela Reid

The CAO reviewed a letter received from Angela Reid, requesting that memorial plaques for local Afghanistan Fallen Soldiers be placed in the new library.

The CAO stated that the Town does not have that authority to dictate what will be placed in the new library. He advised that he would discuss the request with the library.

b) Request for Use of Town Owned Lands, Prince Street

The CAO advised that Town staff had been contacted by the tenants at 569 Prince Street requesting permission to use the adjacent Town owned lands at 573 Prince Street to locate a temporary outdoor patio to serve their businesses.

On motion of Councillors D. Joseph and R. Tynes, it was agreed that the tenants of 569 Prince Street be permitted to use a portion of 573 Prince Street (specifically an area of 50' x 14' along the existing driveway) for the use of an outdoor patio, contingent on the tenants agreeing to rope off or partition the patio in such a way that it does not interfere with the use or safety of the existing parking lot, and the tenants must receive final written approval/sign off from the Town's Development Officer. In addition, Council has the right to terminate this agreement at any time, for any reason, including the potential sale of the property, subject to 30 days written notice by the Town to vacate. The agreement will be renewable on an annual basis, and is in place from May to November 2016. Motion carried.

c) 573-575 Prince Street, 9 Revere Street, Issuance of Requests for Proposals

The CAO advised that given recent interest from a number of parties regarding the purchase of Town owned lands located at 573-575 Prince Street and 9 Revere Street, staff have determined that the lands are surplus and are recommending that the Town issue a Request for Proposals for the properties.

Councillor R. Tynes asked what the properties are currently used for. The CAO advised they were used mostly as parking areas.

Councillor R. Tynes asked if the properties are developed in the future, is there still ample parking in the area.

The Director of Planning advised that some of the adjacent businesses use the lot for parking, if Council wishes to continue to own land that is used by private businesses. He noted that parking is something that could be incorporated into a future development agreement.

The Director of Public Works stated that the parking lots are underutilized and usually vacant.

On motion of Councillors G. MacArthur and R. Tynes, it was agreed that the draft Request for Proposal for 5730575 Prince Street and 9 Revere Street be finalized and issued to determine potential purchasers for the land. The land is considered surplus and available for sale by the Town. Motion carried.

d) Discharge of Development Agreement – 141 Victoria Street

The CAO advised that the property owner of 141 Victoria Street is requesting that Council discharge the development agreement that has been in place since 1988 which allowed him to operate an optometry practice and ancillary services. The property owner has since relocated his optometry practice and wishes to explore other options for the property without the limitation of the existing development agreement.

On motion of Councillors R. Tynes and T. Chisholm, it was agreed that the Development Agreement for 141 Victoria Street be discharged. Motion carried.

e) 1st Reading – Police Chief Authorization Bylaw

The CAO advised that the Town needs a Police Chief Authorization Bylaw for formality sake. He stated that first reading would take place at this meeting, and second reading and approval will be on the agenda for the April Council meeting.

On motion of Councillors R. Tynes and T. Chisholm, 1st reading of the Police Chief Authorization Bylaw was approved, with 2nd reading to take place at the April Council meeting. Motion carried.

f) Proclamation – 2016 Volunteer Week

The CAO advised that the Town was being asked to proclaim April 10th to the 16th as “2016 Volunteer Week”.

On motion of Councillors G. MacArthur and R. Tynes, the proclamation for 2016 Volunteer Week (April 10th to 16th) was approved as presented. Motion carried.

g) Proclamation – National Health and Fitness Day

The CAO advised that the Town was being asked to proclaim June 4th as “National Health and Fitness Day”.

On motion of Councillors G. MacArthur and R. Tynes, the proclamation for National Health and Fitness Day June 4th) was approved as presented. Motion carried.

h) Support for Regional Tourism

The CAO advised that the pending demise of the Central Nova Tourist Association comes at a critical time of change and opportunity in Nova Scotia’s tourism industry. The region must remain a part of all discussions of future plans and have a strong and unified voice. As an interim solution, staff is proposing that a regional tourism partnership for the coming year with the municipalities of Cumberland and Colchester Counties. The partnership will maintain the coordination of visitor services, marketing and promotions and tourism development within the region and provide support to local tourism businesses. A more critical task of this one year contract will be determine a long term plan for regional tourism services in Central Nova Scotia. This would be achieved by working closely with partnership municipalities, Tourism Nova Scotia, the Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia, Chamber of Commerce and tourism operators in the region. The cost to the Town for the one year commitment would be \$8,682.48.

On motion of Councillor G. MacArthur and Deputy Mayor C. Fritz, it was agreed that the Town will enter into a one year commitment with the County of Colchester and Cumberland County, at a cost of \$8,682.48, to promote this region’s tourism potential. Motion carried.

i) List of Electors – Request for Motion

The CAO advised that in preparation for the upcoming municipal election, the Elections Act requires that by resolution, the Town provide the returning officer with use of any permanent register of electors established and maintained for use in a federal or provincial election as the basis for the preliminary list of electors for all or part of the municipality.

On motion of Deputy Mayor C. Fritz and Councillor T. Chisholm, it was agreed that the Town of Truro Returning Officer shall have use of any permanent register of electors established and maintained for use in a federal or provincial election as the basis for the preliminary list of electors for all or part of the municipality. Motion carried.

j) Committee Appointments

The CAO advised that the Town has several committee vacancies for citizen representation that were advertised and the appointments require a motion of Council. It was recommended that Carrie Drake be appointed to the Tourism Committee, Michelle Collins and Jane Upham be appointed to the Diversity Advisory Committee and Francis Collins be appointed to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Committee.

On motion of Councillors R. Tynes and G. MacArthur, the committee appointments were approved as presented. Motion carried.

k) Letter from Herb Peppard re: Alice Street Park

The CAO reviewed a letter received from Herb Peppard, officially thanking the Town for the honour of having the soon to be developed Alice Street Park named after him.

ACCOUNTS

It was moved by Councillors T. Chisholm and R. Tynes that Council approve for payment the accounts as presented be approved for the month of February, 2016. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Councillors R. Tynes and G. MacArthur, it was moved that the meeting be adjourned at approximately 4:40 p.m. Motion carried.

W.R. (Bill) Mills
Mayor

M.W. Dolter
CAO