



Truro Town Council Meeting
Monday, March 5th, 2018 at 1:00 pm
Council Chambers – Town Hall

57

A regular public meeting of Truro Town Council was held on Monday, March 5th, 2018 at 1:00 pm in the Council Chambers of the Truro Town Hall.

Present: Mayor W.R. (Bill) Mills, Deputy Mayor T. Chisholm, Councillors D. Joseph, C. Hinton, B. Kinsman, and W. Talbot

Regrets: Councillor C. Fritz

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion of Councillor B. Kinsman and Deputy Mayor T. Chisholm, the agenda was approved as circulated. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Deputy Mayor T. Chisholm and Councillor B. Kinsman, the Public Council minutes of February 5th, 2018 were approved as circulated. Motion carried.

PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS

a) 2nd Reading – Repeal of Town Clerk & Treasurer Bylaw

The CAO advised that the Town Clerk and Treasurer Bylaw, which has been in existence for 100 years, is no longer applicable to the Town and should be repealed. He noted that 1st reading of the repeal took place on February 5th, 2018 at the Public Council meeting, with 2nd reading to occur at today's meeting.

On motion of Deputy Mayor T. Chisholm and Councillor W. Talbot, the 2nd reading of the repeal of the Town Clerk and Treasurer Bylaw was approved as presented. Motion carried.

b) 2nd Reading – Amendment of Minimum Building and Housing Maintenance Standards Bylaw

The CAO advised that staff was recommending an amendment to the Minimum Building and Housing Maintenance Standards Bylaw that would give the Building Inspector the power to order a residential property vacated. He noted that 1st reading of the amendment took place at the February 5th, 2018 Public Council meeting, with 2nd reading to occur at today's meeting.

On motion of Deputy Mayor T. Chisholm and Councillor C. Hinton, the 2nd reading of the amendment to the Minimum Building and Housing Maintenance Standards Bylaw, to give the Building Inspector the power to order a residential property vacated, was approved as presented. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

a) Strategic Review Update

The CAO advised that following the public meeting in February, Council met to review the updates on the strategic priorities. He stated that another meeting would be set up prior to budget deliberations for Council to review the priorities for the upcoming fiscal year.

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 February was presented to Council.

On motion of Councillors C. Hinton and W. Talbot, it was moved that the CAO Report for the month of February, 2018 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 Deputy Mayor T. Chisholm and Councillor C. Hinton, it was moved that the Corporate Services report for the month of February, 2018 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Fire Report

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

On motion of Councillors W. Talbot and B. Kinsman, it was moved that the Fire Report for the month of February, 2018 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Planning and Development Report

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

Councillor W. Talbot asked if the intent for 29-34 Phillip Street was to tear the building down or remodel it.

The Director of Planning stated that the proposal that is before the Town Planning Advisory Committee is for a remodel and to convert it into a residential use with seven dwelling units.

Councillor C. Hinton asked for an update on the former jail site on Queen Street.

The Director of Planning advised that he did not have any new information and that the project is idle currently.

On motion of Deputy Mayor T. Chisholm and Councillor W. Talbot, it was moved that the Planning and Development report for the month of February, 2018 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Police Report

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

On motion of Councillor C. Hinton and Deputy Mayor T. Chisholm, it was moved that the Police Report for the month of February, 2018 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Public Works Report

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

Councillor W. Talbot asked if there was an update on the issue of pooling water on Prince Street.

The Director of Public Works stated that his department did investigate the area. He stated that that area is a long stretch of low, flat, road and because of that, there is not a lot that can be done to remedy the problem. He noted that more catchbasins could be added, but the profile is so flat that it would not make much of a difference for the entirety of the road section that is having the issue.

Councillor C. Hinton noted that the new downtown signage is a welcome addition and the public parking signage makes it easier for people to find parking. She did note that there was an issue recently with a business that directly next to a public parking lot having an event and not having sufficient parking.

The CAO stated that, unfortunately for some businesses, public parking is in fact still “public” and it is difficult to restrict or control parking in a specific public area. He suggested that the business in question could make arrangements with a nearby business for their private parking for major events. The CAO noted that there would likely not be an issue if the business reserved a few spots with pylons, so long as they did not take too many parking spaces.

Councillor C. Hinton stated that she thought that was a good plan. She noted that the business owner has stated that they would like a meeting with the Mayor and CAO, and she would like to have that arranged.

On motion of Councillors W. Talbot and D. Joseph, it was moved that the Public Works Report for the month of February, 2018 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.

Councillor C. Hinton noted that the informational sign board the Herb Peppard Park is starting to become worn.

The Director of Recreation stated that the department will take a look at the sign and make necessary repairs or replacement.

On motion of Councillors D. Joseph and B. Kinsman, it was moved that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Report for the month of February, 2018 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Councillor W. Talbot asked for an update on the Province’s plan for a Code of Conduct for municipal councillors.

The CAO advised that part of the Municipal Government Act review, a Code of Conduct document is being drafted at the provincial level and once approved in the legislature, will be implemented by Councils across Nova Scotia.

Councillor B. Kinsman advised that recently a house in Town was having plumbing issues and called a plumber. The plumber determined that the problem was not with the homeowner's sewer lines, but likely with the Town's sewer main. The Town was notified and investigated, and repaired the obstruction in the main sewer line near the home. Councillor B. Kinsman stated that the homeowner still incurred a bill for the plumber, as did a few of their neighbours who were having similar issues and called a plumber. He noted that when he followed up with staff, he was informed that the Town encourages residents to call the Town first regarding sewer backups because if the issue is with the Town main, they can save the cost of a plumber. Councillor B. Kinsman stated that he was also informed that plumbers in Town are supposed to call the Town first before when contacted by a resident for a sewer back up issue. He asked if this was common knowledge and if it was outlined anywhere for residents, such as on the Town website.

The CAO stated that if the information was not on the Town website, that it could be added. The difficulty is not knowing where residents check first for such information.

The Director of Public Works advised that the Town would like to know right away if there is an issue with sewer lines. He noted that the plumbers are told to call the Town so the main can be checked, and they should not be taking advantage of homeowners and making a few visits before the Town is notified. He advised that information can be added to the Town website for the public's information.

NEW BUSINESS

a) Funding Allocation to the TCPEP for the 2017/18 Fiscal Year

The CAO advised that the Truro/Colchester Regional Economic Network, or Partnership for Economic Prosperity (PEP) was officially stood up on December 1st, 2017. The CEO for the TCPEP began working in early January, 2018. He stated that the partners have each agreed to fund the TCPEP annually based on a three year pilot; Truro has budgeted \$60,450 each year. With the 2017/18 fiscal year ending on March 31st, 2018, the organization will operate for four months in 2017/18 and therefore our commitment will be for the 4/12th of our annual commitment, or \$20,150. The balance of the 2017/18 funding will be carried over to fulfill our obligation for the remainder of the agreement.

On motion of Councillor D. Joseph and Deputy Mayor T. Chisholm, it was agreed that \$20,150 of this fiscal year's money will be allocated to the TCPEP as part of the Town's commitment under the contribution agreement for the 2017/18 fiscal year. Motion carried.

b) Demolition of Single Detached Dwelling at 185 James Street

The CAO advised that the Building Inspector was requesting a motion of Council for the demolition of the single detached dwelling located at 185 James Street, as it is in such a deteriorated condition that it is beyond repair.

On motion of Councillor W. Talbot and Deputy Mayor T. Chisholm, it was moved that the property at 185 James Street is dangerous and unsightly, and that the owner(s) of 185 James Street are ordered to, by April 5th, 2018, demolish the house on the property and remove the resulting debris, or if the owners do not do so, the Town may demolish the building and the costs of the demolition will be a lien against the property. Motion carried.

c) Draft Municipal Grants Policy

The CAO advised that as part of the Strategic Plan for the Town, one of the objectives was to create a revised Municipal Grants Policy. The new draft policy provides criteria for the applicants and Council to use to assist with determining eligibility for grant approval.

Councillor W. Talbot noted that some of the organizations receiving grants receive them on an annual basis, and perhaps those groups could be moved to another category instead of still being in the grant category.

The CAO agreed that the list of annual grants should be reviewed annually, and noted that the requests for grants are increasing, but the amount the Town allocates to grants is not; if there are too many annual grants then there is not a large amount for the one time grant requests.

On motion of Councillors W. Talbot and C. Hinton, the proposed new Municipal Grants Policy was approved as presented. Motion carried.

d) Draft Training and Professional Development Policy

The CAO advised that staff has created a draft Training and Professional Development Policy for Council and staff. The objective of this policy is to ensure the continued growth in skills in municipal employees, elected officials and committee members so as to ensure that all are capable of initiating and utilizing the most appropriate modern practices and techniques in the conduct of municipal business. This new policy clearly defines the professional development guidelines for the CAO, directors, staff and Council. This policy will replace the Travel and Conference Policy (Policy Number P100-003).

On motion of Councillor D. Joseph and Deputy Mayor T. Chisholm, the proposed new Training and Professional Development Policy was approved as presented. Motion carried.

e) Purple Day for Epilepsy Proclamation

The CAO advised that the Town would be signing a Proclamation to declare March 26th as “Purple Day” in Truro in support of epilepsy awareness. He also noted that the Town was arranging to have the lights at the Library changed to purple in support.

On motion of Councillors W. Talbot and C. Hinton, the Proclamation for “Purple Day” was approved. Motion carried.

ACCOUNTS

It was moved by Councillors C. Hinton and W. Talbot, that Council approve for payment the accounts as presented be approved for the month of February, 2018. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Councillor C. Hinton and Deputy Mayor T. Chisholm, it was moved that the meeting be adjourned at approximately 2:20p.m. Motion carried.

W.R. (Bill) Mills
Mayor

M.W. Dolter
CAO