



Truro Town Council Meeting
Monday, July 9th, 2018 at 1:00 pm
Council Chambers – Town Hall

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A regular public meeting of Truro Town Council was held on Monday, July 9th, 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. Fritz, C. Hinton, B. Kinsman, and W. Talbot

Regrets: Fire Chief B. Currie, Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture A. Simms

In Attendance: Director of Corporate Services A. Currie, Director of Planning J. Fox, Director of Public Works A. MacKinnon, Assistant Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture J. Dawe, Police Chief D. MacNeil, Town Solicitor J. Rafferty and CAO M. Dolter

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The CAO requested that “Letter from Department of Community Services” be added to the agenda under New Business.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Town Solicitor advised that a clarification within the draft Public Council minutes needed to be made regarding the section of the 2nd reading of the amendments to the Taxi Bylaw. In the third paragraph of that section, the words “for taxi drivers” needed to be inserted with regards to the major versus minor infractions.

On motion of Deputy Mayor T. Chisholm and Councillor W. Talbot, the Public Hearing minutes and Public Council minutes of June 11th, 2018 were approved as amended. Motion carried.

MOTIONS AND NOTICES OF MOTIONS

a) Public Hearing – 2012 Development Agreement Amendment – Lands Off Upham Drive

The CAO advised that Meech Holdings Limited has made application to amend a 2012 development agreement to lands off Upham Drive (PID 20232997) to include a new two-phase residential development consisting of 38 dwelling units. A letter from the Town Planning Advisory Committee recommends that Council establish a public hearing date to consider approving the application.

The Director of Planning reviewed his report with Council. He was recommending that Council approve the amendment to the 2012 Development Agreement.

On motion of Councillors B. Kinsman and C. Hinton, it was moved that the preservation of a green corridor along the brook will be incorporated into the development agreement. Motion carried.

On motion of Councillors D. Joseph and B. Kinsman, Council approved the amendments to a 2012 development agreement on lands off Upham Drive (PID #20232997) to include a new two-phase residential development consisting of 38 dwelling units. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

a) Strategic Review Update

The CAO advised that he has asked each of the Department Heads to update the priorities for their department and he will be reviewing those priorities and preparing a report for Council review.

b) Taxi Bylaw Amendments – 2nd Reading

The CAO advised that Council discussed amendments to the Taxi Bylaw at the June Council meeting and requested clarification on the amendments for this meeting. The amendments being recommended include increasing the annual fee for a Driver’s License from \$5.00 to \$25.00 to help recover administrative costs, and that the section related to certain driving offences for a Taxi Owners’ License be eliminated. The CAO stated that the disqualifying qualifications in the Bylaw is aimed at protecting passengers and the public from harm from potentially dangerous taxi drivers. However, as the Taxi Bylaw currently reads, individuals are prohibited from obtaining a Taxi Owner’s License if they have a record of driving offences, even though a Taxi Owner license does not entitle the license holder to operate a taxi, but simply to own the taxi vehicle.

Councillor C. Fritz noted that at the June meeting, there was a discussion about distinguishing between major and minor driving infractions for drivers and that that change should be made to the Bylaw.

The Town Solicitor stated that the Bylaw could be changed, but as it currently stands, the division between major and minor infractions could be at the discretion of the Taxi Authority.

On motion of Councillors W. Talbot and B. Kinsman, the 2nd reading of the proposed amendments to the Taxi Bylaw were approved as presented. Motion carried.

IN-CAMERA SUMMARY REPORT

The CAO advised Council that there were two issues discussed at the incamera meeting for the month of June 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 June was presented to Council.

On motion of Councillor W. Talbot and Deputy Mayor T. Chisholm, it was moved that the CAO Report for the month of June, 2018 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Corporate Services Report

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

On motion of Councillors C. Hinton and C. Fritz, it was moved that the Corporate Services report for the month of June, 2018 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Fire Report

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

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

Planning and Development Report

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

Councillor C. Hinton asked for an update on 296 Brunswick Street.

The Director of Planning advised that 296 Brunswick Street has been vacated. He stated that he believed some work has been completed regarding issues inside the home, but it is not able to be reoccupied at this time.

Councillor C. Hinton asked for an update on 87 Park Street.

The Director of Planning advised that 87 Park Street has been vacated, as an order to cease residential occupancy was issued. The Department is continuing to monitor the property for bylaw violations.

Councillor T. Chisholm asked if a tax sale takes place once a year.

The Director of Corporate Services advised that a tax sale is held once a year, with this year's tax sale scheduled to take place in September.

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

Police Report

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

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

Public Works Report

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

Councillor D. Joseph expressed his disappointment that the Town was promised a meeting with a CN representative recently as he was passing back through Town, but that the Town was never contacted again to set the meeting. He suggested that the Mayor send a letter to CN about this matter. The Mayor agreed to send a letter.

Councillor C. Hinton noted that at the June Council meeting, the Director stated that he would be forwarding a letter to all plumbers in Town reminding them to contact the Town regarding sewer and water issues before running up a costly bill for the homeowner. She asked if this letter has been sent out yet.

The Director of Public Works advised that he is still drafting the letter and it will be sent out soon.

Councillor W. Talbot asked about federal infrastructure programs and if the Town is eligible to apply.

The CAO advised that the Town has submitted projects under a couple different programs and the roundabout was one of the projects that was submitted.

On motion of Councillors D. Joseph and W. Talbot, it was moved that the Public Works Report for the month of June, 2018 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Parks, Recreation and Culture Report

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

Councillor C. Hinton advised that with money raised by the community, the information board in the Herb Peppard Park would be replaced.

On motion of Deputy Mayor T. Chisholm and Councillor W. Talbot, it was moved that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Report for the month of June, 2018 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Deputy Mayor T. Chisholm noted that Pride Week is this month and the Town would be starting off the week with a flag raising at Town Hall at 1pm on Friday, July 13th. Everyone is invited to attend. The parade will take place on Saturday, July 14th at 2pm.

Councillor B. Kinsman stated that the Dal AC campus has been an important part of the community for well over 100 years and recently expressed a fire in their main building. He noted that they are currently looking for interim class and office space and he suggested that the Town make contact to see if there is anything the Town can offer in terms of space.

The CAO advised that staff would make contact with Dal AC regarding their space, office and classroom needs.

Councillor C. Fritz asked that the Department of Public Works investigate the large potholes on the corner of William Barnhill Drive and Willow Street.

NEW BUSINESS

a) Letter from Parks, Recreation and Culture Committee

The CAO reviewed a letter received from the Parks, Recreation and Culture Committee requesting Council's support to begin work on an "Open Parks and Green Spaces Master Plan" for the Town.

The CAO noted that the Planning Department will soon be looking at the Town's overall development plan and will work with the Parks, Recreation and Culture staff and committee in creating a Master Plan.

Councillor W. Talbot asked if there would be a community consultation segment.

The CAO advised that there will be a full consultation process for the redevelopment of the plan and that does include public consultation.

Councillor B. Kinsman asked if the plan would be completed this year.

The CAO noted that the Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture will begin maternity leave in September and the plan will not be finalized until her return.

Councillor B. Kinsman requested that perhaps Council could be provided with a strategy on how the process will be undertaken.

The Director of Planning stated that it was his intention to bring a schedule and timelines to Council at the September Council meeting for approval.

b) Noise Bylaw Exemption Application

The CAO advised that the Nook and Cranny is requesting an exemption to the Town's Noise Bylaw, specifically requesting a time extension to 11:30pm for a street event involving a live band on July 20th. The event is starting later than the usual Nook and Cranny street parties to accommodate the opening event for the Down Syndrome World Swimming Championships. The CAO noted that if Council approves the request, the residents of Louise Street will be given notice of the extended hours.

Councillor D. Joseph noted that residents leaving nearby, not just those on Louise Street, should be notified of the change.

The CAO advised that if Council approved the extension, steps will be taken to ensure all of those living in the general area of the event are made aware of the extension.

On motion of Deputy Mayor T. Chisholm and Councillor C. Fritz, the Nook and Cranny was granted an exemption to the Noise Bylaw to permit an extension to 11:30pm on July 20th, 2018 for their street event involving a live band. Motion carried.

c) Request from Truro Tennis Club

The CAO reviewed a letter received from the Truro Tennis Club requesting an amendment to the payment schedule in place that reimburses the Town for a previous loan provided to the Club. Currently the Club is repaying the Town \$20,000 a year. The Club is requesting that the amount be decreased to \$5,000 per year to allow them to allocate funds to reserve for upcoming expected infrastructure upgrades. The current outstanding loan amount is \$35,000. He stated that staff is recommending that Council not amend the payment schedule.

Councillor D. Joseph asked if staff had discussed compromises on the amount with the Tennis Club.

The CAO advised that at this time, staff have not spoken to the Club regarding a compromise, as the intent was to bring the letter of request to Council first. If Council wished to negotiate a compromise, they can instruct staff to do so.

On motion of Deputy Mayor T. Chisholm and Councillor D. Joseph, the repayment schedule for the Truro Tennis Club’s loan with the Town will be revised to reduce payment from \$20,000 a year to \$10,000 a year. Motion defeated with three votes in favour cast by Deputy Mayor T. Chisholm and Councillors D. Joseph and C. Hinton, and four votes against.

On motion of Deputy Mayor T. Chisholm and Councillor C. Fritz, the repayment schedule for the Truro Tennis Club’s loan with the Town will be revised to reduce payment from \$20,000 a year to \$5,000 a year, resulting in the loan being extended from 2019 to 2025. Motion defeated with one vote in favour cast by Councillor D. Joseph and six votes against.

d) Urban White-tailed Deer in Truro Report

The CAO gave a presentation to Council that summarized the recently completed Urban White-tailed Deer in Truro report. Staff will continue to follow up with the Department of Natural Resources and other municipalities.

e) Letter from Department of Community Services

The CAO reviewed a letter received from the Department of Community Services in response to a letter the Mayor had sent about the Town’s concerns regarding homelessness and mental health.

ACCOUNTS

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

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Councillor D. Joseph and Deputy Mayor T. Chisholm, it was moved that the meeting be adjourned at approximately 3:40 p.m. Motion carried.

W.R. (Bill) Mills
Mayor

M.W. Dolter
CAO