



Truro Town Council Meeting
Monday, December 3rd, 2018 at 1:00 pm
Council Chambers – Town Hall

42

A regular public meeting of Truro Town Council was held on Monday, December 3rd, 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, B. Kinsman, C. Fritz, C. Hinton, B. Kinsman, and W. Talbot

Regrets: Police Chief D. MacNeil

In Attendance: Director of Public Works A. MacKinnon, Fire Chief B. Currie, Director of Planning J. Fox, Assistant Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture J. Dawe, Deputy Police Chief J. Flemming, Town Solicitor J. Rafferty and CAO M. Dolter

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councillor C. Fritz noted a typo in the November 5th, 2018 Public Council meetings in which the word “property” was used instead of “smoking” during the No Smoking Bylaw 2nd reading discussion.

On motion of Councillors W. Talbot and D. Joseph, the Public Hearing minutes and Public Council minutes of November 5th, 2018 were approved as amended. Motion carried.

MOTIONS AND NOTICES OF MOTIONS

a) Public Hearing – 185 Kaulback Street, Development Agreement

The CAO advised that the Town Planning Advisory Committee was recommending that Council establish a public hearing date to consider permitting a development agreement for three 50-unit residential buildings at 185 Kaulback Street.

The CAO reviewed comments provided by the Town’s Urban Forestry Coordinator.

The Director of Planning reviewed his staff report with Council and it was his recommendation that Council approve the Development Agreement as presented.

On motion of Deputy Mayor T. Chisholm and B. Kinsman, the development agreement application by Brentwood Developments Limited to enter into a development agreement to permit the development of three 50-unit residential buildings at 185 Kaulback Street was approved. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

a) Strategic Review Update

The CAO advised that he has been reviewing departmental priorities with Senior Staff, and consolidating all of the priorities. He stated that he will be looking at the early part of January for a meeting with Council to review.

b) No Smoking Bylaw Amendments

The CAO noted that 2nd reading of amendments to the No Smoking Bylaw was tabled at the November Council meeting allow time for staff to have some discussion with the local high school regarding smoking on the sidewalk in front of the school. He stated that he and the Police Chief met with the principal of Cobequid Educational Centre and some of his staff and had an excellent discussion. Further to that discussion, staff would recommend further amending the Bylaw amendments to remove the portion that reads “the portion of any street including sidewalk on both sides of the street that abuts property on which a public school is located”.

On motion of Councillor W. Talbot and Deputy Mayor T. Chisholm, approval was given to the amendments to the No Smoking Bylaw, as presented, regarding the legalization of cannabis. Motion carried.

IN-CAMERA SUMMARY REPORT

The CAO advised Council that there was three issues discussed at the incamera meeting for the month of November 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 November was presented to Council.

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

Corporate Services Report

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

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

Fire Report

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

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

Planning and Development Report

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

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

Police Report

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

On motion of Councillors C. Fritz and B. Kinsman, it was moved that the Police Report for the month of November, 2018 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Public Works Report

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

Councillor D. Joseph noted that the end of this month is the end of the 90 day trial period with CN regarding the overnight parking of tractor trailers on Munroe Court.

The Director of Public Works stated that the “no parking” signs will remain on Munroe Court, and he will be meeting with CN after the trial period to discuss any changes that might need to occur.

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

Parks, Recreation and Culture Report

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

On motion of Councillors C. Hinton and W. Talbot, it was moved that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Report for the month of November, 2018 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

The Mayor advised that there is still a concern over pedestrian safety at the intersection of Willow Street and McClure’s Mills Road.

The Director of Public Works agreed that there is an issue with vehicles turning right from Willow onto McClure’s Mills, especially during a red light and the vehicles not making a complete stop and looking for pedestrians.

Councillor B. Kinsman noted that this issue has been brought to Council before and stated that perhaps part of the issue is that the crosswalk and the pedestrian walk signs are not aligned.

The Director of Public Works stated that a few years ago, the crosswalk on McClure’s Mills was moved further down that street in order to shorten the crosswalk in an attempt to benefit the pedestrian who is crossing in that they would have less street to cover.

Councillor D. Joseph noted that there was also an issue with motorists not making a full stop when turning right from Willow Street onto Prince, and treating it more like a yield sign. He requested that the Police Service monitor this intersection more closely.

NEW BUSINESS**a) Annual Santa Claus Parade**

The CAO advised that given the recent tragedy in Yarmouth during their annual Santa Claus parade, he is undertaking discussions with the Downtown Truro Partnership, the organizers of the parade, and the Police Chief regarding potential changes that could occur to ensure the Truro parade is safer.

b) Revenue from Sale of Cannabis

The CAO advised that the Town was forwarded two pieces of correspondence from the Cape Breton Regional Municipality to the Province, regarding the revenue from the sale of cannabis and the proportion coming out of the province back to the municipalities. He also reviewed the response sent back to CBRM from province. The reply enforced the message received during the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities recent Fall conference in that the province will cover their costs with the excise tax and if municipalities can justify extra costs related to the sale of cannabis, they can forward such proof to the province in an attempt to receive compensation.

c) Sale of Mill Street Property

The CAO advised that staff have reached an agreement with a prospective buyer for the sale of three vacant Town owned properties on Bayview Street and Mill Street, identified as PID nos. 20196994, 20196960 and 20196978. The buyer has offered to purchase these three properties for \$103,000+HST. He noted that Council was provided further details in the draft Agreement of Purchase and Sale.

On motion of Deputy Mayor T. Chisholm and Councillor W. Talbot, it was agreed that the Town will sell properties on Bayview Street and Mill Street, identified as PID nos. 20196994, 20196960 and 20196978 as outlined in the presented Agreement of Purchase and Sale. Motion carried.

d) CRA Council Remuneration Adjustment

The CAO advised that during the Federal budget in 2017, the government removed a 70 year old tax exemption benefiting elected municipal officials. Although advocacy efforts were made to reverse this change, all elected officials in municipalities across Canada are now being advised to be prepared for the tax laws that will take effect on January 1st, 2019. He stated that municipal councils in small to medium sized Nova Scotia towns could expect to see approximately 10.5% less compensation under the new 2019 tax laws, based on an average pre-tax compensation of \$16,750, and no other income. For rural councillors, the difference could be slightly larger with the new tax laws taking an additional bite of approximately 12.9% based on an average pre-tax compensation figure of \$20,500. Some NSFM members have expressed concern that these tax changes will be significant enough to make holding public office unaffordable. The Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities has recommended that the compensation of elected officials be adjusted to accommodate the forthcoming changes. Municipalities were advised to adjust pre-tax levels of compensation for elected officials to allow them to maintain the same levels of compensation after the next tax laws have been applied. For the Councillors of the Town of Truro, this means compensation increases of approximately \$3,100 per Councillors.

On motion of Councillors B. Kinsman and W. Talbot, it was agreed that the revised compensation levels for Mayor and Council would be approved as presented to offset the net pay reductions resulting from the removal of the Council tax exemption by CRA. Motion carried.

e) Deputy Mayor Nomination

The Mayor advised a call for nominations for the Deputy Mayor position occurs annually and he called for nominations for Deputy Mayor that would take effect January 1st, 2018.

On motion of Councillors D. Joseph and W. Talbot, current Deputy Mayor T. Chisholm was nominated as Deputy Mayor for the 2019 year. Motion carried.

ACCOUNTS

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

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Councillors D. Joseph and C. Hinton, it was moved that the meeting be adjourned at approximately 3:25 p.m. Motion carried.

W.R. (Bill) Mills
Mayor

M. Dolter
CAO