



Truro Town Council Meeting
Monday, March 4th, 2019 at 1:00 pm
Council Chambers – Town Hall

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A regular public meeting of Truro Town Council was held on Monday, March 4th, 2019 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. Hinton, B. Kinsman, and W. Talbot

Regrets: Councillor C. Fritz and CAO M. Dolter

In Attendance: Director of Public Works A. MacKinnon (Acting CAO), Director of Planning J. Fox, Assistant Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture J. Dawe, Police Chief D. MacNeil, Fire Chief B. Currie, and Town Solicitor J. Rafferty

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Acting CAO advised that there were three items to add to the agenda under New Business: Inclusionary Zoning, Engage Nova Scotia, and Appointments to Diversity Committee and Tree Committee.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Councillors B. Kinsman and D. Joseph, the Public Council minutes of February 4th, 2019 were approved as circulated. Motion carried.

PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS

a) Presentation – Ecole Acadienne

Principal Anne Bastarache and student Lilly from Ecole Acadienne gave a presentation to Council on the upcoming regional games taking place in Truro in May ahead of the Jeux l'Acadie. The organizing committee was requesting \$10,000 in financial support from the Town of Truro.

The Mayor thanked them for their presentation and advised that Council has received their grant application as well and will review the request during budget deliberations this month.

b) Presentation – Downtown Truro Partnership

Jenn Mantin, the Executive Director of the Downtown Truro Partnership reviewed the Partnership's proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year with Council.

Council members asked many questions regarding the URC area and of the mandate of the partnership. J. Mantin answered all questions and also added that she has been working with Brennan Gillis of the REN to create business development tools for their websites.

The Mayor thanked Ms. Mantin for her presentation and advised that the annual budgetary request from the Partnership will be discussed by Council during budget deliberations this month.

c) Presentation – Bill Casey re: RCMP Communications Centre

MP Bill Casey made a presentation to Council regarding the recent decision by the government to relocate the Truro RCMP communications centre to Halifax. He outlined the concerns about the relocation.

Council members engaged in lengthy discussions with Mr. Casey and offered whatever support he may need to stop or mitigate the RCMP move.

The Mayor thanked Mr. Casey for his presentation.

OLD BUSINESS

a) Strategic Review Update

The Acting CAO advised that during the recent strategic review/service excellence sessions, it was recommended that a Strategic Review update be provided on a quarterly basis at Council meetings instead of on a monthly basis.

IN-CAMERA SUMMARY REPORT

The Acting CAO advised Council that there were no issues discussed at the incamera meeting for the month of February and there are no issues to be discussed by Council at the incamera meeting today.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CAO Report

The Acting CAO advised that there was no CAO Report for February.

Corporate Services Report

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

On motion of Councillors C. Hinton and B. Kinsman, it was moved that the Corporate Services report for the month of February, 2019 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Fire Report

The Fire 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 Fire Report for the month of February, 2019 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 C. Hinton noted that 87 Park Street is still boarded up and reviewed the section of the Municipal Government Act regarding dangerous and unsightly premises and stated that it seemed applicable to this property and asked if the Town could take action.

The Director of Planning advised that at the present time, 87 Park Street is not in violation of any Town Bylaws and therefore currently the Town cannot take any further legal action. He stated that the Town's Building Inspector and Bylaw Officer regularly attend the site to ensure it is secure and that there are no safety issues.

The Mayor asked the Town Solicitor if the Town has any recourse with regards to further action for 87 Park Street.

The Town Solicitor stated that if Council wished to refer the matter to legal to investigate for implications and possibilities, their offices could do that. Council agreed to have the Town Solicitor investigate.

On motion of Councillors W. Talbot and C. Hinton, it was moved that the Planning and Development report for the month of February, 2019 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Police Report

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

On motion of Councillors D. Joseph and W. Talbot, it was moved that the Police Report for the month of February, 2019 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Public Works Report

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

Councillor C. Hinton advised that it has been brought to her attention that there are currently no street lights at the top of Burnyeat Street.

The Director of Public Works advised that last summer, the Town asked Nova Scotia Power to provide a quote for installation of a line of poles and street lights at the top of Burnyeat Street. He noted that that portion of Burnyeat Street was built with the power line poles behind the homes which poses a lot of issues during wind storms. The Director advised that he was provided with a rough quote at the time, but Nova Scotia Power has been in contact with him since as they are looking into the possibility of installing poles in the front of the homes with services running to the homes, instead of from the back. Nova Scotia Power has suggested a cost share project where the Town covers the cost of what the smaller poles and street lights would be, and Nova Scotia Power covers the remaining cost for taller poles and changing of services. He stated that he expected to have the cost amounts back in time for Council to review during budget deliberations.

Councillor W. Talbot stated that he is aware that the department is working on an asset management process and asked if it was possible for a presentation at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

The Director of Public Works advised that he would look into this and advise Council as to when a presentation would be available.

On motion of Deputy Mayor T. Chisholm and Councillor C. Hinton, it was moved that the Public Works Report for the month of February, 2019 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 asked if there was a possibility of having the skate loaning and/or skate sharpening location available closer to the ice surface on Prince Street, as currently residents must attend at the Douglas Street Rec Centre for skate rentals.

The Assistant Director advised that the department is exploring options for having the loan centre closer to the ice surface.

Councillor B. Kinsman noted that he is on the Library Board and he would bring this matter up at the next meeting to see if the Library was interested or able to help with the service.

On motion of Councillors W. Talbot and D. Joseph, it was moved that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Report for the month of February, 2019 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Councillor C. Hinton advised that June 18th is International Picnic Day and she advised that she would send information to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department regarding planning something in Victoria Park for this day.

The Mayor advised that a discussion took place at the recent Committee of the Whole meeting regarding plastic bags and the possible provincial ban.

Deputy Mayor T. Chisholm advised that he sits on the Northern Region Waste Management committee and they have just been advised that the province will not be imposing a province wide ban on plastic bags.

NEW BUSINESS

a) Inclusionary Zoning

The Director of Planning advised that as per Council's request, he looked into the matter of inclusionary zoning. He stated that inclusionary zoning is a requirement that, as a condition of approval, a residential development must include a percentage of units that are classified as affordable units. The Director advised that inclusionary zoning is not currently permitted in Nova Scotia. A private members bill is before the house now, called the Affordable Housing through Inclusionary Zoning Act, and first reading took place in September 2018. He noted that the Town has some policies in place that encourage residential development proposals to include affordable housing units, but it is not currently allowed to be a requirement.

b) Engage Nova Scotia

The Mayor advised that he recently attended a Nova Scotia Quality of Life leadership team discussion. He stated that Nova Scotia Quality of Life will be conducting surveys across the province of Nova Scotia in the near future and he encouraged anyone who received a survey to please complete it.

c) Appointments to Diversity Committee and Tree Committee

The Mayor advised that in January, Raymond Tynes was appointed to the Town's Diversity Committee. Since then, Mr. Tynes has been appointed to the Nova Scotia Human Rights commission and has therefore stepped down from the Town's Diversity Committee. The Mayor stated that when the Town advertised for committee vacancies late last year, there was a communication error with Butch Borden who did not provide his application form back to the Town in time for consideration of the annual appointments. He stated that Mr. Borden meets the requirements for the Diversity Committee and therefore staff is recommending that Council appoint him to the Committee. The Mayor also noted that two applications have been received from David McKillop and Matthew Knot for appointment to the Town's Tree Committee.

On motion of Councillors D. Joseph and C. Hinton, Butch Borden was appointed to the Diversity Committee and David McKillop and Matthew Knot were appointed to the Tree Committee. Motion carried.

ACCOUNTS

It was moved by Councillor W. Talbot and Deputy Mayor T. Chisholm, that Council approve for payment the accounts as presented for the month of February, 2019. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Councillors C. Hinton and D. Joseph, it was moved that the meeting be adjourned at approximately 3:15 p.m. Motion carried.

W.R. (Bill) Mills
Mayor

A. MacKinnon
Acting CAO