



Town of Truro

Public Council Meeting

Monday, November 9th, 2020 – 1:00 p.m.

Council Chambers & Virtual Meeting via Zoom

A regular public meeting of Truro Town Council took place on Monday, November 9th, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor W.R. (Bill) Mills, Deputy Mayor W. Talbot, Councillors A. Graham, B. Thomas, J. Flemming, C. Hinton and J. Barnard

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

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

CAO M. Dolter indicated an amendment to the Agenda with the addition of an update on the TAAC Grounds Revitalization Project in relation to a letter received from Minister Karen Casey; this will be captured as item 10 h).

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

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) Draft Public Council Minutes of October 5th, 2020

On motion of Councillor C. Hinton and B. Thomas, the minutes for the Public Council Meeting on October 5th, 2020 were approved as circulated. Motion carried.

3. MOTIONS AND NOTICE OF MOTIONS – N/A

4. PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS

a) Holiday Delivery Program

Manager of Economic Development A. Grant and Executive Director of the Downtown Truro Partnership J. Mantin presented to Council regarding the free holiday delivery service being offered. Local organizations including the Town have partnered to offer this service to assist local small businesses leading up to the holidays. The intention is to encourage local spending over the holiday season and entice customers to shop from local small businesses while receiving free shipping with delivery to their doors. For more information, please visit: www.trurocolchester.ca/delivers.

5. OLD BUSINESS – N/A

6. IN-CAMERA SUMMARY REPORT

CAO M. Dolter reported that four (4) items of a legal nature were discussed during an in-camera meeting on October 1st, 2020 and there are no items to be discussed with Council following today's Public Meeting.

7. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

CAO Report

The CAO report for the month of October was presented to Council.

Corporate Services Report

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

Fire Report

The Fire Service report for the month of October was presented to Council.

Planning and Development Report

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

Deputy Mayor W. Talbot asked about an inclusive complaint form for all departments as opposed to a complaint form specifically geared to bylaw complaints. Further, Deputy Mayor W. Talbot addressed the fact that there is no feedback mechanism for Council to check the status of a complaint. Director of Planning J. Fox indicated that the department is currently exploring an interactive software package that would address the above items and a report, recommendation and demonstration would be presented to Council in due course.

Police Report

The Police Service report for the month of October was presented to Council.

Public Works Report

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

Councillor J. Barnard asked about the number of applications this year for the tree planting rebate program and how it compares to other years. Director of Public Works A. MacKinnon indicated that the program was not as successful the last couple of years compared to previous years and will obtain the stats and report back to Council.

Parks, Recreation and Culture Report

The Parks, Recreation and Culture report for the month of October was presented to Council.

On motion of Councillors C. Hinton and J. Barnard, it was moved that all reports for the month of October 2020 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

8. **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS**

Councillor C. Hinton brought forward a concern regarding fireworks and advised she would like staff to examine the possibility of implementing a bylaw that would ban the public's use of fireworks. It was agreed that staff would review and report back to Council with a recommendation.

Collective concern was expressed regarding rent control and the lack of affordable housing. There was mutual consensus of the development of a strategic plan. Director of Planning J. Fox stated that Towns do not have the legislative authority to impose developers to provide affordable housing units. On motion of Councillors B. Thomas and J. Flemming, it was moved that the Town begin correspondence with the Province, through NSFM, asking for legislative change giving the Town flexibility with developers in providing affordable housing units.

9. **MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION** – N/A

10. **NEW BUSINESS**

a) **Swearing-In Ceremony**

The official swearing-in of newly elected Council took place prior to the start of this Public Council Meeting. Justice Hunt was in attendance for members to administer their Oath of Office.

b) **Taxi Appeal**

On motion of Councillor J. Flemming and B. Thomas, it was moved that Council upholds the decision of the Taxi Authority to deny Mr. Robert McCully's taxi driver's license. Motion carried.

Councillor A. Graham suggested the Town explore other options to change and improve our existing bylaw in relation to taxi licenses and perhaps look at Halifax's bylaw as a model. Under Halifax's bylaw, the process is less reliant on the Taxi Authority. As well, an appeal would be brought to an appeal committee as opposed to Council. CAO M. Dolter indicated our solicitor could explore this in consultation with the Taxi Authority and provide a report to Council. CAO M. Dolter explained that the Taxi Authority has access to pertinent information in making his decisions that would not otherwise be available to a committee. Also, Halifax's model may not necessarily be the best model for the Town as our current bylaw provides us with some level of flexibility. Councillor A. Graham further advised there is an opportunity for education and suggested the Police Service provide taxi safety education to young and vulnerable persons.

c) **Request for Decision – Ice Surface**

On motion of Councillor J. Flemming and B. Thomas, it was moved that Council approves the installation of the Caldwell Roach Kings Mutual Ice Surface for the 2020/2021 season while following Public Health directives. Motion carried.

d) **Request for Decision – Diversity Committee**

The Diversity Advisory Committee is seeking permission to purchase 250 pins for a total cost of \$500.00 in support of the African Nova Scotian youth of Truro. It was suggested that more information on this initiative be provided prior to Council deciding. It was agreed that this request for decision be deferred until the next Public Meeting on December 7th, 2020.

e) **Briefing Note – Herb Peppard Park Fence**

Council was advised that the additional fencing project at Herb Peppard Park will be tendered in February for installation in early Spring.

f) **Request for Decision – Approval for Additional Funding to NSFM & AMA**

On motion of Councillors B. Thomas and A. Graham, it was moved that Council approve a one-time allocation of \$2,716.46 to NSFM/AMANS as part of a province wide initiative to support the associations through some of the challenges of the pandemic. Motion carried.

g) **Remembrance Day – Details of Service**

Due to COVID restrictions, there will be no Remembrance Day parade or Service at the Truro Cenotaph. A Service will be held at the Legion for veterans, Legion members and invited guests only. The service will be live streamed to the Town's webpage and the Truro Legion's webpage. Anyone wishing to lay a wreath at the Cenotaph can do so between 7 am and 11 am on November 11th.

h) **Update on TAAC Grounds Revitalization Project**

Jointly, the Town and County recently sent a letter to Karen Casey in relation to the TAAC Grounds Revitalization Project asking for the Province's support for the project. A response from Ms. Casey's office was received which stated that based upon the current financial situation of the province, the project was not identified as a priority for infrastructure consideration.

11. **MUNICIPAL GRANT REQUESTS** – N/A

12. **ACCOUNTS**

On motion of Deputy Mayor W. Talbot and Councillor J. Flemming, approval was granted for payment of the accounts for the month of October 2020. Motion carried.

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

On motion of Councillor C. Hinton, it was moved that the meeting be adjourned at approximately 4:05 p.m. Motion carried.

W. R. (Bill) Mills
Mayor

M. Dolter
CAO

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