



Town of Truro

Public Council Meeting

Monday, December 7th, 2020 – 1:00 p.m.

Council Chambers & Virtual Meeting via Zoom

A regular public meeting of Truro Town Council took place on Monday, December 7th, 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, and Town Solicitor C. Thompson

Regrets: Fire Chief B. Currie

1. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

CAO M. Dolter noted an amendment to the Agenda with the addition of a request for decision relating to a capital budget expenditure; this will be captured as item 10 f.

On motion of Councillors C. Hinton and J. Barnard, the Agenda was approved as amended. Motion carried.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

a) **Draft Public Council Minutes of November 9th, 2020**

On motion of Councillors B. Thomas and J. Flemming, the Minutes for the Public Council Meeting on November 9th, 2020 were approved as circulated. Motion carried.

3. **MOTIONS AND NOTICE OF MOTIONS** – N/A

4. **PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS**

a) **Demolition of 620 Prince Street**

The Town's Building Inspector has deemed the property located at 620 Prince Street as dangerous or unsightly. The building was severely damaged by fire in September and is in such a deteriorated condition that the building is beyond repair which also poses major safety concerns. The Building Inspector is seeking Council's approval of the property being declared dangerous or unsightly and approve an order for the demolition of the building and removal of debris. The request for decision is captured below as item 10 a.

5. **OLD BUSINESS**

a) **Request for Decision – Diversity Committee Purchase of Pins**

This item was tabled from the Public Council Meeting of November 9th, 2020 in which more information was obtained for Council to now proceed with a decision.

On motion of Deputy Mayor W. Talbot and Councillor A. Graham, it was moved that the Diversity Committee purchase 250 pins at \$2.00 a piece in support of the African Nova Scotian youth of Truro. Motion carried.

b) **Fireworks Briefing**

As requested at the previous Public Council Meeting, Council was provided with a report in relation to a potential bylaw to ban the use of fireworks.

The recommendation of Town Solicitor C. Thompson stated the current bylaws and regulations that govern the use of fireworks within the Town are reasonable and appropriate. Any additional regulations or restrictions on the use or sale of fireworks within the Town would either be outside of the Town's legislative authority or beyond our ability to effectively enforce. The volume of annual calls to the Truro Police relating to fireworks suggests this is not a significant issue and therefore, there is no apparent justification for any changes.

Some members of Council suggested public education on general fireworks safety which perhaps could be built into school fire safety education during fire safety week. CAO M. Dolter will discuss with Fire Chief B. Currie.

c) **Review of Taxi Bylaw**

As requested at the previous Public Council Meeting, Council was provided with Town Solicitor C. Thompson's review of the Town's current Taxi Bylaw and potential amendments in relation to granting taxi licenses and the appeal process.

It was in the opinion of Town Solicitor C. Thompson, that substantial changes to the Town's current Taxi Bylaw are not warranted. However, a consideration could be given to a procedural change to the way in which taxi license appeals are dealt with by having the appeals heard by Committee of the Whole rather than during a regular public meeting.

Based upon Council agreeing to the suggested procedural change regarding appeals, the first reading of the Taxi Bylaw amendment took place. The motion is captured below in item 10 d.

6. **IN-CAMERA SUMMARY REPORT**

CAO M. Dolter reported that one (1) item relating to a legal contract was discussed during an in-camera meeting on November 26th, 2020 and there is one (1) item to be discussed with Council following today's Public Meeting.

7. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

CAO Report

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

Corporate Services Report

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

Fire Report

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

Planning and Development Report

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

Police Report

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

Public Works Report

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

Parks, Recreation and Culture Report

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

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

8. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Councillor C. Hinton asked about the Property Standards Committee and when it would start. CAO M. Dolter indicated that Director of Planning J. Fox is working on the Terms of Reference and would report back to Council at the next Public Meeting on January 11th, 2021.

Councillor J. Barnard suggested the creation of a Sustainability Coordinator position for the Town. CAO M. Dolter advised staff will review and do some preliminary background work and report back to Council as it relates to the Town's overall priorities and budget.

9. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION – N/A

10. NEW BUSINESS

a) Request for Decision – Demolition of 620 Prince Street

Further to item 4 a noted above, on motion of Councillor C. Hinton and Deputy Mayor W. Talbot, the property at 620 Prince Street has been declared to be dangerous or unsightly. Motion carried.

On motion of Councillor J. Flemming and Deputy Mayor W. Talbot, the property owner of 620 Prince Street is ordered to, by the end of January 2021, demolish the building on the property and remove the resulting debris, or if the owner does not do so, the Town may demolish the building and the costs of the demolition will be a lien against the property. Motion carried.

b) Request for Decision – Appointment of Deputy Mayor

It was unanimously moved that Councillor Wayne Talbot be appointed as Deputy Mayor for the Town of Truro effective immediately and continuing for the 2021 calendar year. Motion carried.

c) Request for Decision – Appointment of Member to RECC Board

On motion of Councillor J. Barnard and Deputy Mayor W. Talbot, it was moved that Patrick Dunn be appointed to the Rath Eastlink Community Centre (RECC) Board. Motion carried.

d) Request for Decision – Taxi Bylaw Amendment

Further to item 5 c noted above, on motion of Councillors A. Graham and J. Barnard, first reading of the Bylaw to amend the Taxi Bylaw was approved as presented. Second reading to take place at the next Public Meeting on January 11th, 2021. Motion carried.

e) Potential Property Water Runoff Bylaw

Director of Planning J. Fox is reviewing a potential bylaw and will report back to Council at the next Public Meeting on January 11th, 2021.

f) Request for Decision – Capital Budget Expenditure

On motion of Councillors A. Graham and B. Thomas, it was moved that Council approves the increased cost of a new vehicle for Parks, Recreation & Culture in the amount of \$7,750 to be funded from the capital reserve. Motion carried.

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

12. **ACCOUNTS**

On motion of Councillors C. Hinton and J. Barnard, approval was granted for payment of the accounts for the month of November 2020. Motion carried.

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

On motion of Councillor C. Hinton, it was moved that the meeting be adjourned at approximately 3:30 p.m. Motion carried.

W. R. (Bill) Mills
Mayor

M. Dolter
CAO

DRAFT