



Public Council Meeting

Town of Truro

Monday, September 12th, 2022 – 1:00 p.m.

Town Hall – Council Chambers

A regular Public Meeting of Truro Town Council took place on Monday, September 12th, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. at Town Hall in Council Chambers.

Present: Mayor W.R. (Bill) Mills, Councillors A. Graham, B. Thomas, C. Hinton, 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, Town Solicitor C. Thompson

Regrets: Deputy Mayor W. Talbot, Councillor J. Flemming, Fire Chief B. Currie

Mayor B. Mills called the meeting to order and began by acknowledging the recent passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and offered condolences to the Royal Family.

Mayor B. Mills followed with a Land Acknowledgement recognizing that we are in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaw People.

Mayor B. Mills further acknowledged September 30th as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

1. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

On motion of Councillors J. Barnard and A. Graham, the agenda was approved as circulated. Motion carried.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On motion of Councillors C. Hinton and J. Barnard, the minutes for the Public Council Meeting on June 8th, 2022, and the minutes for the Public Hearing on June 8th, 2022, were approved as circulated. Motion carried.

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

4. **PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS**

a) **Public Hearing: 363 Brunswick Street, Development Agreement**

On motion of Councillors C. Hinton and B. Thomas, it was moved that Council enter into a Development Agreement with Esber (Brian) Yazigy to permit the construction of a multi-unit residential development consisting of three (3) dwelling units on lands at 363 Brunswick Street (PID 20191078), subject to the submission of a stormwater flow assessment and a landscaping plan prior to the Town entering into any agreement. Motion carried.

- b) **African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee Update – N. Jackson**
CAO M. Dolter indicated that an update will be provided at the next Public Meeting.

- c) **Ward Boundary Review – A. Grant**
Manager of Economic Development A. Grant provided Council with an update on the Ward Boundary Review. The Province of Nova Scotia requires municipalities to review their polling districts every eight (8) years. This review is intended to evaluate the fairness and reasonableness of ward boundaries and the number of Councillors.

Council was presented with three options: 1) no change to existing boundaries, 2) a modification of the three wards to distribute electors more evenly in all wards, 3) introduce six total wards with one Councillor representing each ward and a mayor elected at large.

Staff is recommending option two (2), where there would be a modification to the three (3) wards. Ward 1 would become slightly larger, Ward 2 would become slightly larger while remaining the smallest ward, and Ward 3 would become slightly smaller to help balance the expected higher density infill development likely to occur in the downtown core.

Next steps include the Planning and Development Department hosting a Public Open House in October. Staff will review the feedback and make any final considerations and then present a final recommendation to Council in November. Upon approval, staff will prepare and make its submission to the Utility and Review Board (UARB) in December.

- d) **Petition Received for Fence at Off Leash Dog Park**
CAO M. Dolter acknowledged receipt of a petition by residents to install a fence at the off-leash dog park.

Councillor A. Graham questioned why the recent petition in relation to the street work being completed on West Prince was not mentioned. CAO M. Dolter advised that that petition was addressed to the Director of Public Works who is addressing the concerns, with a formal response forthcoming.

5. **OLD BUSINESS** – N/A

6. **IN-CAMERA SUMMARY REPORT**

CAO M. Dolter advised that an in-camera session of Council took place on July 4th, 2022, where two (2) issues of a land nature were discussed. There are no items to discuss in-camera today.

7. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a) **CAO Report**

The CAO report for July and August was presented to Council.

b) **Corporate Services Report**

The Corporate Services report for July and August was presented to Council.

c) **Fire Service Report**

The Fire Service report for July and August was presented to Council.

There was collective concern regarding the continuous increase in EHS assistance calls responded to by the department. CAO M. Dolter noted that Fire Chief B. Currie and Mayor B. Mills have already met with MLA D. Ritcey about this issue and a letter was sent to the Minister of Health's office. We await a response from the Minister's office.

d) **Planning and Development Report**

The Planning & Development report for July and August was presented to Council.

Councillor C. Hinton advised of numerous noise complaints and complaints of trees being removed, all in relation to the Lyman Street development. CAO M. Dolter indicated that due to requirements of the stormwater management plan, trees unfortunately had to come down. Where possible, trees will be reinstated. Staff have also contacted the developer and provided a reminder of the Noise Bylaw and the times when construction work is permitted. Councillor C. Hinton asked if we could request signage with the Developer's contact information on its properties to enable residents to make direct contact should an issue arise during construction. CAO M. Dolter advised that the Planning Department would review.

e) **Police Service Report**

The Police Service report for July and August was presented to Council.

Mayor B. Mills inquired as to whether a report to quantify the number of calls relating to the homeless shelter could be prepared. Police Chief D. MacNeil advised he would have a report prepared and channel it through the Truro Police Board.

f) **Public Works Report**

The Public Works report for July and August was presented to Council.

Councillor C. Hinton expressed that numerous residents are not happy with the removal of a sidewalk on one side of the street on Archibald Street. Mayor B. Mills indicated that he has only heard from one (1) resident. Director of Public Works A. MacKinnon advised that the capital work was approved by Council during budget deliberations and follows Council's Sidewalk Construction Management Policy.

g) **Parks, Recreation & Culture Report**

The Parks, Recreation & Culture report for July and August was presented to Council.

On motion of Councillors J. Barnard and C. Hinton, it was moved that all reports for the months of July and August 2022, be approved as presented. Motion carried.

8. **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS**

There were a few statements made by a couple of Council members, resulting in no action items.

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

10. **NEW BUSINESS**

a) **Proclamation: Rail Safety Week**

Mayor B. Mills proclaimed the week of September 19th, 2022, to September 25th, 2022, as Rail Safety Week in the Town of Truro.

b) **Proclamation: Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Awareness Month**
Mayor B. Mills proclaimed the month of September 2022 to be Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Awareness Month in the Town of Truro.

c) **Request for Decision: Refinance of Debenture 32-B-1, Borrowing for Honeywell Energy Project**
On motion of Councillors J. Barnard and C. Hinton, it was moved that Council hereby approves MFC borrowing not to exceed an amount of \$1,800,000 for a term not to exceed 20 years at an interest rate not to exceed 7.5% for the Facility Energy Efficiency Project. Motion carried.

On motion of Councillors B. Thomas and J. Barnard, it was moved that Council hereby approves MFC borrowing not to exceed an amount of \$1,100,000 for a term not to exceed 20 years at an interest rate not to exceed 7.5% for the refinancing of debenture 32-B-1. This debenture borrowing is related to the capital costs of the RECC. Motion carried.

d) **Request for Decision: Unbudgeted Transfer to the Capital Reserve**
On motion of Councillors C. Hinton and J. Barnard, it was moved that Council approve an unbudgeted transfer to the capital reserve in the amount of \$3,256,047 for the year ended March 31st, 2022. Motion carried.

e) **Request for Decision: Approval of Audited Financial Statements**
On motion of Councillors C. Hinton and B. Thomas, it was moved that Council approve the audited consolidated financial statements for the year ended March 31st, 2022, as circulated. Motion carried.

f) **Request for Decision: Approval to Establish a Victoria Park Legacy Fund**
On motion of Councillors J. Barnard and B. Thomas, it was moved that Council approve the establishment of a Victoria Park Legacy Fund. Motion carried.

g) **Request for Decision: Planning Advisory Committee Policy Amendment**
On motion of Councillors B. Thomas and A. Graham, it was moved that the Planning Advisory Committee Policy be amended to formally establish the long-standing practice of appointing the Executive Director of the Downtown Truro Partnership as a member to the Town's Planning Advisory Committee. Motion carried.

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

12. **ACCOUNTS**

On motion of Councillors J. Barnard and C. Hinton, approval was granted for payment of the accounts for the months of July and August 2022. Motion carried.

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

On motion of Councillor C. Hinton, it was moved that the meeting be adjourned at approximately 3:50 p.m. Motion carried.

W. R. (Bill) Mills
Mayor

M. Dolter
Chief Administrative Officer