



Public Council Meeting

Town of Truro

Monday, September 9, 2024 – 1:00 p.m.

Town Hall – Council Chambers

A regular Public Meeting of Truro Town Council took place on Monday, September 9th, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. at Town Hall in Council Chambers.

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

In Attendance: CAO M. Dolter, Director of Public Works A. MacKinnon, Director of Planning J. Fox, Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture A. Simms, Fire Chief B. Currie, Police Chief D. MacNeil, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Communications A. Grant, Town Solicitor C. Thompson

Mayor B. Mills called the meeting to order and began with a Land Acknowledgement recognizing that we are in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and traditional lands of the Mi'kmaq People.

1) **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

M. Dolter noted a change in the agenda with the addition of item 10c, *Transfer of TIDs Funds to Capital Account*. On motion of Councillors J. Flemming and I. McGrath, the amended agenda was approved. Motion carried.

2) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On motion of Deputy Mayor C. Hinton and Councillor B. Thomas, the minutes for the Public Council Meeting on July 8, 2024, were approved as circulated. Motion carried.

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

4) **PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS**

a) **Community Engagement Funding Correspondence**

CAO M. Dolter informed Council that the Town had received a letter of congratulations from The Honorable Ginette Petitpas Taylor, offering congratulations on the towns receipt of Community Engagement funding.

b) **Basic Income Guarantee Correspondence**

CAO M. Dolter shared the response received from Nova Scotia Community Services regarding a letter sent originally to Premier Tim Houston requesting a study on implementing a Basic Income Guarantee in Nova Scotia. Council felt that the response did not address the request for a feasibility study on BIG and agreed a second letter should be sent.

5) **OLD BUSINESS** – N/A

6) **IN-CAMERA SUMMARY REPORT**

CAO M. Dolter advised that an in-camera session of Council took place on August 22, where items of land, human resources and legal issues were discussed. Another In-camera sessions was held September 5, 2024, to discuss items regarding land and legal issues. There are no items to discuss in-camera after this meeting.

7) **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a) **CAO Report**

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

Councillor J. Flemming asked if there were any new sites planned for the town deer hunt. CAO Dolter replied that the town had written the minister for permission for a special site but had not received a reply. Mayor B. Mills will follow up with Dace Ritcey on the status of that request.

Deputy Mayor C. Hinton inquired if there was an increased number on the deer allotment and how many deer can be taken. CAO M. Dolter replied that the DNRR does not put a number on how many deer are allowed, it depends on how quickly they are taken.

Councillor B. Thomas asked if there are scat numbers regarding deer which would show how effective the hunt is. CAO M. Dolter replied that the information on pellet counts has been forwarded to DNRR and a report is expected that could be presented to Council.

Deputy Mayor C. Hinton noted that it is hurricane season and asked if a designated comfort station has been arranged. CAO M. Dolter replied that the Douglas Street Rec Centre is the initial comfort station, and adjustments will be made if necessary.

Deputy Mayor C. Hinton raised the issue of accessibility in Council Chambers, noting that temporary measures have been taken. CAO M. Dolter replied that the matter needs more review and will be discussed with the building official.

Councillor I. McGrath asked if once open, the TAAC grounds would be available for the public to use. CAO M. Dolter explained that while staff is on site and unless otherwise booked for an event the grounds will be available for the public to utilize.

A discussion was held regarding open water on the ballfield and concerns for public safety. CAO M. Dolter shared that the Project Manager is looking at options but there should not be a delay to construction. Mayor B. Mills suggested "No Trespassing" signage as the construction site should be closed to the public. A motion was made By Councillor W. Talbot and seconded by Councillor A. Graham to do a study to look at options for fencing in the area including price, signage, expedience. Motion carried

b) **Corporate Services Report**

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

Councillor B. Thomas asked how civic building repairs are funded if there is a large issue needing addressing, such as a roof replacement as is the case with the Truro Police Station. CAO M. Dolter replied that it depends on the scale of the repairs as there is a facilities maintenance budget. For more significant repairs the funds come out of the capital budget.

Councillor A. Graham asked staff to facilitate a meeting with or a presentation from PVSC. CAO M. Dolter will confirm with PVSC when they will be available to address council.

Councillor I. McGrath asked for clarification on the line "Water Utility/Fire Protection" on the financial report. CAO M. Dolter explained that this is the amount the town charges the fire department for water for the town's hydrants.

c) **Fire Service Report**

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

Councillor J. Flemming asked if the number of "Assist EHS Calls" was correct at 108. Fire Chief B. Currie explained that the fire station averages 50-60 Assist EHS calls per month and that this report covers two months. Mayor B. Mills asked if there was any response from the Province regarding support for EHS. Chief B. Currie replied that there have been some improvements in response time for EHS and he expects more improvements will be made.

Councillor I. McGrath asked for clarification to the data provided on Truro Fire Department response to motor vehicle crashes. Fire Chief B. Currie replied that the trends are similar year to year, but more accidents happen in the summer as there is more traffic.

d) **Planning & Development Report**

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

Councillor I. McGrath asked if the updates to the Municipal Planning Strategy would be given to Council for approval. Director of Planning J. Fox explained that it would go through the Planning Advisory Committee first and then there would be a Public Hearing before going to Council.

Councillor A. Graham asked how Policy IM-40 relates to the development on Juniper Street. And if Council can request the developers meet with residents. J. Fox replied that plans are currently being made for this meeting to be held. CAO M. Dolter noted that TPAC can recommend that council not grant a Public Hearing until the developer holds a public meeting. J. Fox noted that the meeting should be held in the upcoming weeks.

Councillor B. Thomas asked for an update on the building under construction at Pleasant and Prince Streets. J. Fox replied that there were no updates, but the concrete and steel work have been completed.

Councillor B. Thomas asked how many units under development are Site Approval Projects, for Council's understanding. J. Fox replied that it is possible to add a table to the Development Application Section of the Planning Report.

Councillor I. McGrath asked if the Site Approval Projects can also be added to the website. J. Fox replied he would have to investigate as there could be issues with confidentiality.

Councillor W. Talbot commented that the community has several concerns regarding the 60 Juniper Street development. He noted that there are programs available in Halifax such as Community Benefit Agreements, the Province of Nova Scotia Equity Impact Assessment and the Special Policy Lens and asked if Truro is open to looking into these programs. J. Fox replied that staff could investigate further but the application is in works. He will report back next month.

e) **Police Service Report**

The Police Service Reports for the months of July and August were presented to Council.

Councillor I. McGrath inquired if the number of motor vehicle collisions reported is on par with previous years. Chief D. McNeil replied that these numbers are on par with an average of 7 or 8 per week. He clarified that some of these are minor incidents in parking lots.

Councillor I. McGrath commented that there were not many parking tickets. He suggested that the curbs be painted yellow where parking is not permitted. Chief McNeil replied that there are "No Parking" signs already.

f) **Public Works Report**

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

Councillor I. McGrath noted that paving on Parkdale Avenue from Martha to McLean Streets has been completed and asked when the remainder of Parkdale was to be done. Director of Public Works, A. McKinnon answered that staff will continue to gauge if they can fit it in budget wise at the end of this year.

Deputy Mayor C. Hinton asked if there were issues with the streetlights on Prince Street as she had received a complaint. Director of Public Works A. McKinnon answered that there were issues earlier in the summer that had been resolved but that he would investigate.

Deputy Mayor C. Hinton asked for an update on Laurie Street paving. CAO M. Dolter replied that it was reviewed and is still 75th on the list and will be assessed for next paving season. Director of Public Works A. McKinnon commented that it currently doesn't fit in the five-year plan but could be discussed at budget time next year.

Councillor B. Thomas inquired what the plan for the Young Street culvert was this year. Director of Public Works A. McKinnon replied that the entrance and the pipe itself were cleaned out but they are also looking at a means of excavating the end of the pipe and rebuilding a portion of it.

Councillor W. Talbot commented that Council is discussing specific streets when there is a five-year program in place that is scientific and should be adhered to.

Councillor I. McGrath asked if new developments were considered when scheduling paving. Director of Public Works A. McKinnon replied that it is.

Councillor A. Graham asked about the Community Development Plan and when the Stormwater Development was developed in the most recent Community Plan, what study was referenced, the 2016 report or the 1997 report? Director of Planning J. Fox explained that there were references to flood plan mapping that was just done as well as a flood plan study done in 1998. These are different than a storm water management plan. The current data used for the flood plane plan was done in 2017. The 1998 study is used only as an approach to flood proof requirements.

Councillor W. Talbot pointed out that Councillor A. Graham's question illustrates the need for expedited meetings with developers and the community.

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

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

Councillor I. McGrath asked if Hazard Pruning occurs in the case where a residence is vacant. Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture A. Simms replied she would have to investigate and get back to Council. I. McGrath then asked if there is a charge to homeowners, A. Simms replied that there is not.

Councillor I. McGrath then asked if there are signs of hemlock woolly adelgid in Victoria park. A. Simms replied that there no one signs yet but plans are being put in place for when it arrives.

Councillor W. Talbot thanked A. Simms and PR&C staff for their work with the Apex Organizing Committee. The event raised more than \$10,000 for the scholarship committee.

Councillor A. Graham asked if the washroom on the TAAC ground would be accessible to the public. A. Simms replied that they would be when staff was present.

Councillor B. Thomas asked for clarification on the Twoonie Swim at Victoria Park. A. Simms replied that there were three this year and that the program had been running for several years.

Deputy Mayor C. Hinton asked if the 37 Elm trees identified for removal had been removed yet. A. Simms replied that they had not all been removed.

Deputy Mayor C. Hinton asked if Victoria Park would be the permanent home for the Truro Forest School. A. Simms replied that it would be.

Councillor W. Talbot reported that he would be attending the Joint Nova Scotia Police Chiefs Governance Conference. He also attended the Apology by RCMP for harmful effects of street checks on Africa Nova Scotians.

Councillor B. Thomas asked about sidewalk maintenance in town and whether there is a planned maintenance program. Director of Public Works A. McKinnon replied that sidewalks are assessed during spring cleaning and in the fall. During the summer Public Works relies on people contacting the town if there are concerns.

Councillor J. Flemming asked if there are updates on the sidewalks on the Walker Street bridge which were supposed to be temporary. CAO M. Dolter explained that the province was to provide design work on expanding the sidewalks; he will check with the province.

On motion by Councillor W. Talbot and Deputy Mayor C. Hinton, the reports were approved. Motion carried.

8) **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS**

Deputy Mayor C. Hinton asked if staff had contacted the Truro Homeless Outreach Society with a request for them to present at the Committee of the Whole. CAO M. Dolter replied that he would contact them.

Deputy Mayor C. Hinton asked for an update on the parking lot behind the old Margolian's building. CAO M. Dolter explained that it is private property, and they can charge for parking if they deem it fit. Manager of Strategic Initiatives & Communications A. Grant explained that the

property owner had inquired previously if the town would like to lease the parking lot but the town declined.

Councillor B. Thomas explained that several people were complaining about pigeons at the library and the mess they are making. CAO M. Dolter explained that staff are looking into options. Crews are cleaning twice a week.

Councillor W. Talbot said that the Apex Organizing Committee is being recognized by the House of Assembly on September 17th and it would be good for the town of Truro to do something similar.

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

10) **NEW BUSINESS**

a) **Request for Decision: 179 Queen Street, Set Public Hearing Date**

By motion of Councillors I. McGrath and A. Graham a public hearing date was set for October 7, 2024, at 1:00 pm. Motion carried,

By motion of Councillors I. McGrath and W. Talbot the time of the public hearing was amended to 6:00 pm on October 7, 2024. Motion carried.

b) **Request for Decision: 1 Logan Street, Set Public Hearing Date**

By motion of Councillor I. McGrath and seconded by Deputy Mayor Hinton a public hearing date was set for October 7, 2024 at 6:00pm. Motion carried.

c) **Transfer of TIDs Funds to Capital Account**

CAO M. Dolter explained that the Truro Industrial Society was wound down and the balance of the TIDS' account was to be transferred and used for paving in the industrial park. By motion of J. Flemming and I. McGrath the balance will be transferred. Motion carried.

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

12) **ACCOUNTS**

On motion of Councillors I. McGrath and W. Talbot, approval was granted for payment of the accounts for July and August 2024. Motion carried.

13) **ADJOURNMENT**

By motion of Deputy Mayor C. Hinton and Councillor A. Graham, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:05 p.m.

W. R. (Bill) Mills
Mayor

M. Dolter
Chief Administrative Officer