



## Public Council Meeting

Town of Truro

Thursday November 7, 2024 – 1:00 p.m.

Town Hall – Council Chambers

The Swearing-in Ceremony for Mayor Hinton and Councillors took place on Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. at Town Hall in Council Chambers, followed by the regular Public Council Meeting.

Present: Mayor C. Hinton, Councillors A. Graham, B. Thomas, I. McGrath, W. Talbot, J. Flemming, D. Pryor

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

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*CAO M. Dolter called the meeting to order, beginning with a Land Acknowledgement. He recognized that we are gathered on Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and traditional lands of the Mi'kmaq People, and acknowledged the significant contributions of the African Nova Scotia Community to our province over the past 400 years, despite enduring generations of inequality due to systemic racism.*

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1) **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

On motion of Councillors J. Flemming and I. McGrath, the agenda was approved as circulated. Motion carried.

2) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On motion of Councillors I. McGrath and J. Flemming, the minutes for the Public Council Meeting on October 7, 2024, were approved with noted typos corrected. Motion carried.

On motion of Councillors I. McGrath and J. Flemming, the minutes for the Public Council Meeting on October 18, 2024, were approved as circulated. Motion carried.

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

4) **PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS**

a) **CN Letter – EcoConnexions – From the Ground Up Grant**

CAO M. Dolter informed Mayor and Council that the Town of Truro received a \$50,000 grant from CN in conjunction with Tree Canada to support community tree planting and greening initiatives.

5) **OLD BUSINESS** – N/A

6) **IN-CAMERA SUMMARY REPORT**

CAO M. Dolter advised there was no recent in-camera session of Council to report. There are no items to discuss with Council in-camera following today's meeting.

7) **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a) **CAO Report**

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

Councillor A. Graham asked for clarification of Millbrook's role in the Deer Hunt and if Feed Nova Scotia was involved. CAO M. Dolter explained that hunters from Millbrook take an active role in the hunt with regulated hunters from the band. Youth hunters are also involved as part of an education program. Town deer are butchered, and the meat frozen for Feed Nova Scotia.

Councillor W. Talbot commented that the drainage pond at the ballfield on Argus Drive will be filled in shortly for public safety.

W. Talbot mentioned that the African Nova Scotian community will be consulted regarding the Number Two Construction Battalion Ceremony. There has not yet been a date set.

Councillor B. Thomas asked if the deer hunt locations will be added to or changed for this year. M. Dolter replied that deer hunt locations are not identified but there will be sufficient signage. DNRR is aware that citizens are concerned that the hunt is being held too far from the town core.

Councillor I. McGrath asked for an update on the pigeon situation at the library. Tenders have been issued but not awarded yet.

Mayor C. Hinton asked if the town has updated plans for a crosswalk to commemorate Remembrance Day. M. Dolter replied that the town is looking at a more permanent solution, possibly symbolism in the concrete sidewalk to the Cenataph.

b) **Corporate Services Report**

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

Councillor A. Graham asked Director of Public Works what the Revenue line on the budget for Public Works was for. Director of Public Works A. McKinnon responded that it was Sewer Lateral Replacements. The number of replacements is hard to budget for as there is no way to predict how many will be done in a year, hence the discrepancy on the budget.

Councillor B. Thomas asked for clarification on the budget for the Willow Street project. CAO M. Dolter will confirm the numbers.

c) **Fire Service Report**

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

d) **Planning & Development Report**

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

Councillor J. Flemming asked if there was an update on parking at the Curling Club. CAO M. Dolter replied that he would investigate the matter and update Council.

Councillor I. McGrath asked if there should be a review of current By-laws. M. Dolter said that the Department heads will review their Department's Bylaws and produce a list of those that require updating or amendments and will report back to Council in December.

I. McGrath inquired if it was possible to change the number of units in a dwelling eligible for curbside garbage collection. Director of Public Works A. McKinnon commented that he had forwarded the information from the planning department to the waste collection contractors and is waiting for a reply.

A discussion was held on Development Agreements being issued with no development commencing. Director of Planning, J. Fox explained that Development Agreements do expire, and an extension would have to be approved by Council. Town Solicitor C. Thompson explained that while Development Agreements are contracts, developers are not legally required to build.

e) **Police Service Report**

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

Councillor W. Talbot asked if there had been any response to the letter sent out regarding Policing Standards. CAO M. Dolter replied that there was no response, but a Province wide meeting will be held in the near future, and that he will report back to Council.

f) **Public Works Report**

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

Councillor I. McGrath asked if there was an update on the Parkdale Avenue paving and curb restoration. Director of Public Works A. McKinnon replied there is no time this year, it will be part of the Capital Budget planning over the winter.

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

The Parks, Recreation & Culture report for October was presented to Council.

Councillor J. Flemming asked if there were any plans to fix the pavement at Kiwanis Pond. Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture A. Simms will speak to Public Works about the issue.

J. Flemming also inquired if the fountain in Kiwanis Pond would be replaced. CAO M. Dolter replied that staff will look into the matter.

Councillor W. Talbot asked if the town has a policy regarding providing parking at town parks, specifically the Stan "Chook" Maxwell Memorial Park. A. Simms replied that while there is no policy, PR&C have been looking at options for parking at the Stan "Chook" Maxwell Memorial Park.

On motion of Councillors I. McGrath and W. Talbot, it was moved that all reports for October 2024, be approved as presented. Motion carried.

8) **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS**

Councillor I. McGrath asked if it would be possible to have a Bylaw to ban election signs. CAO M. Dolter replied that the MGA does not address signage. Town Solicitor C. Thompson clarified that a ban may infringe on the rights of candidates and that the subject would require more research.

Councillor B. Thomas inquired into the appointing of Councillors to Council Committees. Mayor C. Hinton said that she will make those decisions in January with CAO M. Dolter and the appointed Deputy Mayor sitting in. Councillor W. Talbot noted that he would have an issue with Councillors being appointed to a committee by the mayor without their input.

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

10) **NEW BUSINESS**

a) **Request for Decision: Regional Transit Feasibility Study, Project Oversight & Advisory Group**

By motion of Councillors I. McGrath and J. Flemming it was moved that Council appoint a Council member to the Advisory Group by November 28, 2024. Motion carried.

b) **Request for Decision: Truro's 150th Community Anniversary - Project Task Force**

By motion of Councillors J. Flemming and B. Thomas it was moved that Council appoint a Council member to the Project Task Force by November 15, 2024. Motion Carried.

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

12) **ACCOUNTS**

On motion of Councillors I. McGrath and J. Flemming, approval was granted for payment of the accounts for October 2024. Motion carried.

13) **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:50 p.m.

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Cathy Hinton  
Mayor

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M. Dolter  
Chief Administrative Officer