



Public Council Meeting

Town of Truro

Monday December 2, 2024 – 1:00 p.m.

Town Hall – Council Chambers

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

Mayor C. Hinton called the meeting to order, beginning with a Land Acknowledgement. She recognised 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.

1) **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

CAO M. Dolter announced an addition to the agenda of *Item 10g Request for Early allocation of the Final Quarter payment for the RECC.*

Councillor A. Graham suggested that Item 10a be changed from *Appointment of Deputy Mayor* to *Election of Deputy Mayor.*

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

2) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On motion of Councillors J. Flemming and I. McGrath, the minutes for the Public Council Meeting on November 4, 2024, were approved with noted typos corrected. Motion carried.

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

4) **PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS** – N/A

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 November was presented to Council.

Mayor C. Hinton asked what the deadline for Grant applications is. CAO M. Dolter replied that the deadline is January 31 and that reminders will be sent out. The Policy is available on the town's website.

Councillor A. Graham asked which departments would be responsible for removal of the debris pile in the south end of Victoria Park near the Public Works building, and if the Fire Chief would be involved. M. Dolter replied that it would be the shared responsibility of Public Works and Parks, Recreation and Culture. Fire Chief Blois will be involved depending on which method is used to remove the debris.

Councillor W. Talbot asked who was on the hiring committee for the new EDIA Coordinator. M. Dolter explained that it was a joint hiring committee including the Town of Truro and Village of Bible Hill.

W. Talbot inquired into the status of the ponds on the ballfield construction site as community members are concerned that it is a safety hazard. M. Dolter replied that the permanent solution will be to fill them in but that is unlikely to happen before winter. Signage will go up this week as well as temporary fencing.

Councillor I. McGrath questioned if the debris on the sides of the trails in lower Victoria Park could be removed by citizen volunteers. M. Dolter explained that the town does not use volunteer, that staff is aware of and will schedule removal of the debris. Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture A. Simms noted that the plan is to have 15' on either side of the trail cleared and that it is an ongoing project.

I. McGrath asked if the tender for dealing with the pigeon issue at the library had been awarded. M. Dolter replied that the tender had not yet been issued and that the town has been in communications with the province regarding the issue.

I. McGrath asked for an overview on what the curb and sidewalk work on Willow Street entails. Director of Public Works A. McKinnon explained that the curbs on the east side will be completed this fall and the curbs and sidewalks on the west side will be done next summer.

Councillor B. Thomas inquired about the EMO exercise recently held and asked if the CAO felt the town is prepared to deal with an emergency. M. Dolter replied that he felt that the town is in a good position and that the province has sound plans for every eventuality.

Mayor C. Hinton asked if the Douglas Street Rec Center is to be used as a Comfort Center in an emergency. M. Dolter replied that if it is available, it will be the main center.

B. Thomas clarified that the finer material has been removed from trailside in the park. A. Simms confirmed that was correct and that the removal of courser material is ongoing but will take some time. B. Thomas then inquired if the debris at the top of Pleasant Street, as well as other areas, would be addressed. M. Dolter replied that the Urban Forester will look and assess for level of urgency.

Councillor J. Flemming inquired if the parking lot across from the Curling Club would be made available again. M. Dolter explained that the developer currently leasing it would require it up to the new year, after which he would move the fencing back and provide parking spots if possible.

J. Flemming commented that a constituent had asked why there was no Canadian flag being flown at town hall. M. Dolter explained that council directs that the municipal flag be flown as it is a municipal office and that the Canadian flag is flown at the Police Station.

b) **Corporate Services Report**

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

Councillor I. McGrath inquired when the Corporate Services position will be filled. M. Dolter replied that a decision will be made in the next few weeks.

Councillor A. Graham asked if the town would be applying to the UARB for a review of our water rates and increases. M. Dolter explained that the UARB does the review and recommends rate changes, probably in the new year. Director of Public Works A. McKinnon clarified that all aspects would be reviewed by consultants.

c) **Fire Service Report**

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

d) **Planning & Development Report**

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

Councillor A. Graham asked if the Juniper Street developers had been made aware of the requirement to submit a stormwater management plan prior to their application coming to Council for approval. Director of Planning and Development J. Fox confirmed that they were.

e) **Police Service Report**

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

Councillor A. Graham inquired into the number of people living in tents in the town. Chief D. MacNeil replied that it was about 8 -10 with a significant amount in the county. A. Graham asked what responsibility the town had for those individuals. CAO M. Dolter explained that the town provides support and services as needed but the shelter is being run by a non-profit.

Mayor C. Hinton stated that she will be hosting a meeting with 11 key players to discuss the situation. A. Graham asked if a report would be provided after the meeting and Mayor C. Hinton agreed that a report would be provided to Council.

f) **Public Works Report**

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

Councillor I. McGrath asked if the updates to the Active Transportation Plan would be reported to the Active Transportation Committee. Director of Public Works A. McKinnon replied that the update would be provided either to the Committee or Council, whichever Council preferred.

I. McGrath asked how often the street prioritization list is reviewed. A. McKinnon explained that it is reviewed annually, and the system is being enhanced. A report will be provided to Council in

the new year on the new system.

Mayor C. Hinton commented that there is sod ripped up by the roundabout and asked if that could be looked into. A. McKinnon replied that staff planned to fix that.

Councillor W. Talbot asked if there is a time limit for people to put bags of leaves with their garbage for pick up. A. McKinnon explained that people can put 3 bags of leaves out all year but that the town encourages people to mulch their leaves.

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

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

Councillor I. McGrath asked for an update on the hemlock woolly adelgid plan. Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture A. Simms replied that the committee has come together and will have a presentation for the January Parks, Recreation and Culture meeting.

I. McGrath asked if there were issues with the traffic lights at the corner of Walker and Queen as they are flashing. Director of Public Works, A. McKinnon replied that it is an ongoing issue when it rains, and the electrical contractors are still trying to diagnose the problem.

On motion of Councillors I. McGrath and A. Graham, it was moved that all reports for November 2024, be approved as presented. Motion carried.

8) **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS**

Councillor I. McGrath asked if it would be possible to have Committee reports presented to Council. Mayor C. Hinton replied that she will be working on that and will discuss with the CAO.

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

10) **NEW BUSINESS**

a) **Election of Deputy**

An election for Deputy Mayor was held. Councillor Bill Thomas was elected as Deputy Mayor with a one-year term.

b) **Request for Decision: Board members for RECC**

By motion of Councillors J. Flemming and B. Thomas it was moved that Council approve the recommended appointment of Shalimar Manuel as Citizen Representative for the Town of Truro to the RECC Board. It was decided not to appoint the second recommended applicant as they are not a resident of the Town of Truro. Motion carried.

c) **Request for Decision: 38 Alice Street, Development Agreement Timing Extension**

By motion of Councillors J. Flemming and A. Graham it was moved that Council grant an extension to the timing provision noted in part 7.3 of the August 2013 Development Agreement between the Town of Truro and Meech Holdings. Motion carried.

d) **Request for Decision: Membership for Regional Accessibility Advisory Committee**

By motion of Councillors A. Graham and I. McGrath it was moved that Council re-appoint Michelle Wood, Melissa Higgins and Tracy McLellan as the Town's citizen representatives to the Regional Accessibility Committee as per the Terms of Reference. Motion carried.

e) **Request for Decision: Code of Conduct**

By motion of Councillors I. McGrath and A. Graham it was moved that Council adopt the Code of Conduct for Elected Officials of the Town of Truro. By vote of 4 to 2, motion carried.

Council stipulated that a letter be sent to the province outlining concerns with the code.

f) **Request for Decision: Amendments to Public Council Meeting Agenda Template**

By motion of Councillors A. Graham and I. McGrath it was moved that the Public Council Meeting Agenda be amended by renaming "Committee Reports" to "Department Reports" and removing unless necessary the following:

- Motions and Notice of Motions,
- Motion of Reconsideration
- Municipal Grant Requests
- Accounts

Motion carried.

g) **Request for Early Allocation of Quarterly Funds to the RECC**

By motion of Councillors I. McGrath and J. Flemming it was moved to release the quarterly funds to the RECC early. 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 November 2024. Motion carried.

13) **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:20 p.m.

Cathy Hinton
Mayor

M. Dolter
Chief Administrative Officer