

Public Council Meeting

Town of Truro

Monday January 13, 2024 – 1:00 p.m.

Town Hall – Council Chambers

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

In Attendance: CAO M. Dolter, Director of Public Works A. MacKinnon, Director of Planning J. Fox, Assistant Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture J. Dawe, 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 that *Item 8b Request for Decision: Set Public Hearing Date for Juniper Street Development* has been removed from the agenda as the application has been withdrawn.

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 I. McGrath and J. Flemming, the minutes for the Public Council Meeting on December 2, 2024, were approved. Motion carried.

3) **PETITIONS, DELEGATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

CAO M. Dolter read a letter to the Mayor and Council from the African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee recommending that Council support a change in zoning of the West Prince neighbourhood.

4) **OLD BUSINESS**

a) **Request for Decision: Application to FCM Climate Ready Plans and Processes Fund**

Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Communications A. Grant explained that the funds would be used to develop a community climate risk assessment and resilience plan. She explained that the County of Colchester has also applied to this program and that there would be opportunities to collaborate.

By motion of Councillors I. McGrath and J. Flemming, it was moved that Truro Town Council approve the application. Motion Carried.

5) **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.

6) **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a) **CAO Report**

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

Councillor J. Flemming requested clarification on the technology that would be used to dispose of the debris pile on the Public Works area off Treatment Road. CAO M. Dolter explained that it was a large container that uses an air curtain which covers the burn resulting in little smoke or particulate going into the atmosphere. The high heat leaves little debris behind. He pointed out that this method is currently being investigated but other options are also being considered.

Councillor W. Talbot commented that there is some confusion regarding the renaming of the TAAC Grounds once it reopens. M. Dolter explained that that decision was made by Council in 2022 and announced by then-Mayor Mills at the National Apology to the No. 2 Construction Battalion in July 2022.

Deputy Mayor B. Thomas asked if the Argus Street Ballfield will also be renamed. M. Dolter replied that the naming rights will be sold.

Mayor C. Hinton reminded Council that grant applications are due by January 31, 2025.

b) **Corporate Services Report**

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

Councillor J. Flemming inquired what the profits of the Stampede were. CAO M. Dolter replied that invoicing may not be finalized but the preliminary number is around \$50,000.

Councillor I. McGrath asked for an update on the insurance situation with the Stadium. M. Dolter replied that he is hoping to have that information by the end of the month.

Deputy Mayor B. Thomas requested a detailed financial report on the TAAC and ballfield projects. M. Dolter said that there will be a full assessment and that the report will be available for Council around budget time.

c) **Fire Service Report**

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

Councillor A. Graham asked if the Truro Fire Service has jurisdiction over the homeless encampment. Chief B. Currie explained that they do not have jurisdiction as the encampment is in the County.

d) **Planning & Development Report**

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

Councillor J. Flemming asked if the 60 Golf Street application is the same one that was there previously. Director of Planning J. Fox explained that it was but that the application has been modified and that they had to go through the application process again as the application had changed significantly.

e) **Police Service Report**

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

Councillor W. Talbot asked if the Town of Truro has a policy regarding the homeless situation and homeless encampments. CAO M. Dolter explained that representatives of the town met with community support organizations in early December. A second meeting will be held in February.

Deputy Mayor B. Thomas noted that he recently attended a meeting of the Cobequid Marsh Body and while they have concerns for the marshland, they are empathetic and compassionate.

f) **Public Works Report**

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

Councillor A. Graham asked what regulations are required to designate parking on one side of the street only, specifically in regard to Longworth Avenue. Director of Public Works A. McKinnon replied that he would review the situation.

Councillor W. Talbot inquired about the damage to the turf at the roundabout. A. McKinnon stated that the damage was probably from a utility truck and that it would be repaired in the Spring.

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

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

Councillor W. Talbot asked if the town had received funding from the Canada Public Transit fund for the Active Transportation Study. Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Communications A. Grant explained that the town had been granted 75% of funding from the Connect 2 program through the province.

By Motion of Councillors J. Flemming and W. Talbot it was moved to approve the department reports. Motion carried.

7) **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS**

Deputy Mayor B. Thomas noted that while 38 deer were taken during the deer cull, the problem persists in town. He would like to meet with the Minister of Natural Resources to discuss the issue. CAO M. Dolter explained that a letter was sent to the minister, but permission was not granted to hunt in the urban core. M. Dolter will follow up with MLA Dave Ritcey and request a meeting with the Minister. Councillor W. Talbot proposed a two-part motion to amend the town's planning strategy:

1. Create a West Prince Neighborhood Advisory Committee

Define the extent of the lands that were historically part of the West Prince Neighborhood. The committee would advise the Town's Planning Advisory Committee on planning matters and applications that affect the neighbourhood. The committee would be made up primarily of

members of the neighbourhood.

2. Change the policy area and zoning of land in the West Prince Street neighbourhood

Change the policy area and zoning of all lands in the West Prince neighbourhood that are currently zoned Regional Service to Urban Corridor Policy area under Urban Corridor Zone. This zone area policy change would not impact lands currently zoned General Residential. The Urban Corridor Policy Area and Urban Zone would allow for a range of redevelopment options but in a controlled way with protections in place for abutting residential areas.

The motion was seconded by Councillor D. Pryor. Motion carried.

Deputy Mayor B. Thomas noted that going East on Arthur Street and turning right on Young Street can take some time. He asked if it would be possible to have a lane that goes straight or left and one lane turning right. Director of Public Works A. McKinnon will review the situation.

10) **NEW BUSINESS**

a) **Request for Decision: Funding Application for Cobequid Drive**

By motion of Councillors J. Flemming and I. McGrath Truro Town Council approved an application to the Province of Nova Scotia Growth and Renewal for Infrastructure Development Program (GRID), for the re-capitalization of Cobequid Drive to improve existing housing conditions within the immediate and surrounding areas of Cobequid Drive as well as facilitate future residential developments south of this area. Motion carried.

b) **No. 2 Construction Battalion Commemoration**

Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Communications A. Grant presented a review of the renaming of the TAAC grounds project and the history of the No. 2 Construction Battalion.

c) **Request for Decision: Interest Relief Water Utility Customers**

By motion of Councillors A. Graham and J. Flemming it was moved that due to the Postal strike, the Town of Truro waive interest charges for water utility customers in Zones 14 to Zone 20 until January 31, 2025. Motion carried.

d) **Request for Decision: Planning Advisory Committee Appointment**

By motion of Councillors A. Graham and J. Flemming, it was moved that Council appoint T. J. Jordan to the Truro Planning Advisory Committee for a three-year term. Motion carried.

13) **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m.

Cathy Hinton
Mayor

M. Dolter
Chief Administrative Officer