

Public Council Meeting

Town of Truro

Monday February 3, 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, 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 that *Item 4a Request for Decision: Regional Strategic Tourism Plan* has been removed from the agenda and will be revisited next month.

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

2) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On motion of Councillors I. McGrath and D. Pryor, the minutes for the Public Council Meeting on January 13, 2025, were approved. Motion carried.

3) **PETITIONS, DELEGATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE** – N/A

4) **OLD BUSINESS**

b) **Request for Decision: CNSCC Request for Funds - CRA**

CAO M. Dolter explained that the Central Nova Scotia Civic Center Society which runs the RECC, has been audited by the Canada Revenue Agency and deemed ineligible for funding received from the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy and Tourism and Hospitality Recovery Program during Covid. The basis of the CRA's decision is that the RECC is run by the Town of Truro and County of Colchester. CNSCCS has been ordered to repay the original amount of \$1.29M that has increased to \$1.63M with interest. The Society does not have the funds to repay this amount and while they have filed a Notice of Objection, the interest will continue to accrue until the CRA makes a ruling.

CNSCCS has requested that the Town of Truro and Colchester County provide a loan to the Society so it can pay the balance owing to the CRA (50/50) avoid further interest. If successful, the funds will be returned to the municipalities with an interest rate of 1.5%. CNSCCS has also requested that legal and audit fees be deducted from the funds returned to the municipalities.

By motion of Councillors I. McGrath and J. Flemming, it was moved that Council approve the payment of \$814,923 (50% of the current balance) to the Society in the form of a repayable grant (subject to an interest rate of 1.5%) from the Town's Operational Reserve. Be it further resolved that the amount to be paid back with the successful conclusion of the Notice of Objection without deduction for legal or audit fees, which are to be paid by the NSCC Society. Motion Carried.

c) **George Jones Memorial – Fire Station Renaming**

Nevin Jackson spoke to Council about the upcoming George Jones memorial. George Jones was a Truro resident who, in 1860, was instrumental in the implementation of Truro's first Bucket Brigade, a precursor to the current Fire Service. Mr. Jackson requested that Council approve both the renaming of the Firehall in George Jones' honour and the installation of a memorial plaque.

By motion of Councillors I. McGrath and J. Flemming it was moved that Council approve the naming of the Truro Fire Service building in memory of George Jones, that being "George Jones Memorial Fire Station". Motion Carried.

By motion of Councillors A. Graham and J. Flemming it was moved that Council approve the installation of a "George Jones Memorial Plaque" at the entrance of the fire station. This plaque would serve to tell the story and contributions of George Jones to the town of Truro. Motion Carried.

B) 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 January was presented to Council.

In addition to his submitted report, CAO M. Dolter addressed the recent announcement from the American Government regarding US tariffs on Canada. He clarified that Town of Truro purchasing policy already maintains that local products are prioritized and that the Purchasing Officer for the town will be following any guidelines provided by the province.

Mayor C. Hinton asked if there were any updates from DNRR regarding the deer cull. M. Dolter replied that MLA Dave Ritcey had committed to setting up a meeting with the Minister of Natural Resources.

Deputy Mayor B. Thomas inquired if there would be ash or residue that may contain heavy metals should the Town choose to utilize the burn process on the debris pile in the Public Works area off Treatment Plant Road. M. Dolter replied that more information would be requested from the Company should the Town want to pursue this option.

Councillor A. Graham asked when a newsletter would be produced. M. Dolter replied that if that project goes forward, it would be quarterly and commence in the next fiscal year. Mayor C. Hinton

asked for a status update on the "Year in Review" publication. Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Communications A. Grant replied that it was currently at the printers and would be distributed shortly.

b) **Corporate Services Report**

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

Councillor I. McGrath asked for an explanation of the increased cost of traffic control. Director of Public Works A. McKinnon replied that contractor's pricing had increased.

Deputy Mayor B. Thomas requested a review of loans and principal outstanding. M. Dolter replied that such a report could be provided to Council.

c) **Fire Service Report**

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

d) **Planning & Development Report**

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

e) **Police Service Report**

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

Deputy Mayor B. Thomas asked for clarification on the Truro Mall suboffice. Chief D. MacNeil explained that the Truro Police Service has applied for a grant through the Department of Justice that would allow them to have a community office which could possibly be located in the Truro Mall.

f) **Public Works Report**

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

Councillor A. Graham asked how streets are prioritized for snow removal and sanding after a snow fall. Director of Public Works A. McKinnon replied that the Policy is available on the Town's website and that it is dependent on the weather situation.

Councillor I. McGrath asked if the Active Transportation Committee was still required or should be disbanded. CAO M. Dolter replied that the recently received Traffic Engineering Consultant's report should be reviewed by the Committee and presented to Council. The next step will be to set a meeting for the Committee to review the report.

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

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

By Motion of Deputy Mayor B. Thomas and Councillor I. McGrath it was moved to approve the department reports. Motion carried.

7) **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS**

Councillor I. McGrath asked if a member of the public could teach skating lessons at the Civic Square ice surface as a resident had reached out to him inquiring. Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture A. Simms replied that the ice surface is open for free skating only but that the interested citizen could reach out to Parks, Recreation and Culture as programs are offered at the Colchester Legion Stadium.

8) **NEW BUSINESS**

a) **Request for Decision: MPS/LUB Follow-Up Review/Amendments – Set Public Hearing Date**

By motion of Councillors J. Flemming and I. McGrath it was moved that Council set a Public Hearing date for March 3, 2025, to consider amendments to the Town's Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-law to correct the typographical errors, formatting errors, and omissions as outlined in the Report provided by staff. Motion carried.

b) **Request for Decision: 46/48 Ford Street and 22/38 Rexdale Drive – Set Public Hearing Date**

By motion of Councillors I. McGrath and D. Pryor, it was moved that Council set a Public Hearing date for March 3, 2025, to consider entering into a development agreement with Wallace Retirement Living to permit two 6-storey 50-55 unit buildings and two 4-storey 35-40unit buildings on lands off Marshland Drive with access via Rexdale Drive and Ford Street. Motion carried.

13) **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:35 p.m.

Cathy Hinton
Mayor

M. Dolter
Chief Administrative Officer