

**Regular Council Meeting
April 19, 2021
Town Council Chambers**

Present

Mayor L. Boucher
Deputy Mayor A. Murray
Councillor S. Cameron
Councillor W. Cormier
Councillor M. Farrell
Councillor D. MacInnis
Councillor D. Roberts

Also Present

J. Lawrence, CAO
D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk
L. Roy, Strategic Initiatives
M. Barkhouse, Human Resources
S. Scannell, Community Development
K. Proctor, Town Engineer

Media

Delegates

Call to Order

Mayor L. Boucher called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

Approval of Agenda

"It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Agenda with additions." Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

"It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Minutes of the In Camera and Regular Council Meetings of March 15th, Epoll Minutes of March 23rd and April 8th and Special and In Camera Council Minutes/Session of March 30th and April 12th, 2021." Motion carried.

Presentations

Antigonish Sports Hub (S. Spencer, G. MacInnis)

S. Spencer provided Council with a PowerPoint presentation on background details and the focus of Sports Hub.

G. MacInnis provided an update on their timelines and noted the growth in partnerships and spoke to a new partnership to assist with registration through the Pictou Antigonish Regional Library.

Details were provided on the website, portal and registration system, and ensuring clear and consistent messaging. It was noted that other materials and documents are now available including handbooks and reporting forms.

S. Spencer noted the focus was to align the groups to assist priorities and resources. It was noted they are looking to support shared goals and objectives nationally, provincially, and municipally.

S. Spencer noted that both the Town and County are partners, and that the County will take the lead on a permanent position, leading to the ask this evening of the Town of an annual \$2,000. Grant. She noted the Town and County are leaders in the province.

S. Spencer presented comments from various sports leaders including R. Crouse and spoke to the purpose of the Sports Hub.

S. Spencer provided thanks to various individuals and groups in moving the Sports Hub forward.

At 6:18 PM the presentation concluded and presenters responded to questions from Council.

- H. Lam, EMO Coordinator (Presentation & Request for Policy Approval)

H. Lam took to the podium, provided details on his employment position and on a policy for on Comfort Centers for the Town. He provided examples as to when and why comfort centers would be opened to the public.

Details were provided on partnerships to enhance and secure details surrounding comfort centers. He noted the partnerships are voluntary and provided additional details. A listing of the current partners was reviewed.

H. Lam responded to questions from Council.

CAO J. Lawrence provided comment on the Comfort Center Policy and noted that this sets the framework which would likely result in further actions moving forward.

“It was Moved and Seconded that the Town approve the Comfort Center Policy as presented.”
Motion carried.

- M. Ballard; Antigonish Town Active Transportation Trails

Mayor L. Boucher invited M. Ballard to the podium. M. Ballard thanked Council for the opportunity to speak to Council. He noted he would like to provide details on ‘On the shoulders of Others’, ‘meeting the Objectives’ and ‘fiscal appreciation’. He spoke briefly to the Town’s Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP). He then spoke to a network strategy and considerations including serving population density and not mixing vehicles and bikes. He noted that connectivity is a priority for the aging population and students.

M. Ballard noted that the more densely populated area of the Town is not ‘connected’. He presented a ‘connectivity’ map from a 2014 and presented comments from the Active Living Strategy.

M. Ballard presented a ‘proposed option’ for connectivity trails, including fiscal appreciation for the current proposal versus a previous proposal. M. Ballard provided his closing comments.

S. Scannell provided comments on the current proposal.

M. Ballard responded to questions from Council.

At 6:55 PM the presentation concluded.

New Business

- Public Notice and Code Red Policy (K. Gorman)

Mayor L. Boucher called on K. Gorman to take to the podium

K. Gorman noted that she would be providing details on updating the public notice policy as well as introducing a pilot 'code red' program and expanded on the purpose of the 'code red' system.

K. Gorman provided a 'scenario' for Council, and requested Council check their cell phones which features a sample of a 'code red' notice she had sent them.

K. Gorman provided details on how people can sign up to receive notification and on the service area which includes some of the fringe areas of Town. She provided comments on the specifics of the program, noting residents can choose the method of receiving messages.

Council was advised on the specific notices that would be utilized during the pilot program.

K. Gorman outlined the highlights of the proposed policy.

Council was provided with details on standard public notices that would be shared via typical media, timing of public notices and communication expectations.

K. Gorman responded to questions from Council.

"It was Moved and Seconded to accept the Code Red Policy as presented." Motion carried.

- Antigonish Active Transportation Corridor & Temporary Borrowing Resolution (S. Scannell)
S. Scannell took to the podium and spoke briefly to the Active transportation Corridor providing background details including partners, the proposed corridor route and facility types, phases & overall budget. He noted that should Council wish to proceed, two motions would be required, one to accept the proposal, and second to approve a Temporary Borrowing Resolution.

Mayor L. Boucher called on Council for comments as well as providing her own comments.

"It was Moved and Seconded that Council commit to the construction of the Antigonish Active Transportation Corridor Project, executing land purchases and easements where required to complete the proposed route. Council also commits to financing the total project cost through a grant submission to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP), municipal operating funds, and borrowing through the Municipal Finance Corporation." Motion carried.

For the motion Mayor L. Boucher, Deputy Mayor A. Murray and Councillors M. Farrell, D. MacInnis, and D. Roberts, against the motion Councillors S. Cameron and W. Cormier.

“It was Moved and Seconded that Council approve a Temporary Borrowing Resolution in the amount of 1.5 million dollars (attached) for the purpose of an Active Transportation Corridor.”
Motion carried

- Exhibition Lane

“It was Moved and Seconded to name the lane that passes by the Arena as ‘Exhibition Lane’.”
Motion carried.

CAO J. Lawrence provided comment noting that when the arena was built the exhibition gave the land for the arena. He noted that Exhibition Lane will encompass other buildings along the lane which will now feature civic numbers.

- Donation to Knights of Columbus Councillor S. Cameron declared a conflict of interest and left the table.

Councillor D. Roberts provided brief comment on the donation request.

“It was Moved Seconded that council provide the Knights of Columbus a \$1,000 grant from Council’s discretionary funds.” Motion carried.

Following brief discussion Councillor S. Cameron returned to the Council meeting.

Correspondence

- Municipality of Barrington Re: Bill 47

Mayor L. Boucher provided comment on the recent correspondence respecting Bill 47.
Discussion took place.

- Bruce MacKinnon Sports Illustrated Cartoon Exhibit.

Mayor L. Boucher provided comment noting she had received correspondence from the University seeking Town sponsorship in the amount of \$1,500. to help defray the cost to host the “Bruck MacKinnon Sports Illustrated” cartoon exhibition at the St. FX Art Gallery from May 6 to August 28, 2021 and provided additional details.

“It was Moved and Seconded that Council provide financial support in the amount of \$1,500. for the Bruce MacKinnon Sports Illustrated cartoon exhibit at the St. FX Art Gallery from May 6 to August 28, 2021.” Motion carried.

Business from Minutes

There was no Business from Minutes

Staff Reports

- CAO Report

Councillor W. Cormier provided positive comment on the Action Items list recently implemented.

“It was Moved and Seconded to accept the CAO Report as presented.” Motion carried.

Committee Reports

- **Police & License Committee**

Councillor W. Cormier provided comment on a Police & License meeting scheduled for April 28th and invited other Councillors to attend. He noted the purpose of the meeting is to look at a proposed Community Standards Bylaw.

He noted that members of St.FX University will also be involved in discussion on the Bylaw.

- **Fire and Library Committees**

Councillor S. Cameron noted he had nothing to report.

- **Community Enhancement Committee**

Deputy Mayor A. Murray noted that the first meeting of the Community Enhancement Committee was held and provided details on a mural contest.

Council was advised that the Committee is seeking input for the installation of a 'garden' along an area of James Street that extends toward the TransCanada Highway.

- **Waste Management Committee**

Councillor D. Roberts noted the Committee had welcomed new member L. Crowley to the Committee. She further noted the Committee has received comments from the Town Engineer and Bylaw staff for updating the Waste Management Bylaw. She noted the comments would be reviewed and incorporated into the Bylaw.

Councillor D. Roberts provided comment on a \$1,200 incentive for litter clean up. She noted that due to new liability issues the organization that previously completed the litter clean-up will no longer be involved. She advised that she would be discussing the matter with N. Haverkort and welcomed any suggestions from council on groups that may be willing to assist with the clean-up.

Council was advised that the Great NS Pick UP is coming up soon and that registration can be done online to be added to the map and receive free bags and gloves to assist with the clean-up.

Councillor D. Roberts noted that there is a One-bag Challenge for Earth Day and provided additional details.

Discussion took place regarding a new liability waiver required to be signed by for the annual clean-up. CAO J. Lawrence suggested M. Barkhouse could investigate whether volunteers would have liability covered for such an event.

Councillor D. Roberts advised that the Large Bulky pick up will take place next week on residents' regular garbage collection day.

- **Accessibility Committee**

Councillor D. MacInnis advised that the Accessibility Committee had met last Thursday with Upland providing the Committee with an update. He noted that recommendations will be coming to Council following consultation. He noted the Committee and Consultants did an accessibility walk-about and took pictures following the meeting.

CAO J. Lawrence noted that an accessibility audit was done of town hall while the consultants were on site.

- Eastern District Planning Commission (EDPC)

Councillor M. Farrell provided details on the Town's partnership with EDPC. She noted that EDPC is asking municipalities approve to accept the town as a full-time member with an indemnification clause through passing a resolution.. She noted that fire inspection service has also been added included to the updated Agreement.

"It was Moved and Seconded that the Town of Antigonish approve rescinding the July 1, 2018 Eastern District Planning Commission Intermunicipal Services Agreement and replace it with the agreement as presented effective July 1, 2021". Motion carried.

Mayor L. Boucher acknowledged the one-year anniversary of Portapique tragedy and spoke briefly to the matter.

"It was Moved and Seconded that Council provide \$1,000 from its discretionary funds to NS Strong fundraising." Motion carried.

Mayor L. Boucher spoke to St. FX and students returning to class in September and provided comment on the support the residents have provided. She thanked ST. FX for sticking to their commitments and noted the vast majority of students took restrictions seriously.

Mayor L. Boucher spoke briefly to the fact that there may be more students remaining in town as opposed to returning to their home during the summer months.

Brief discussion took place on vaccinations for students. She noted the university will be looking for proof of vaccination from students upon their return this Fall.

With there being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:23.