

**Regular Council
February 22, 2016
Town Council Chambers**

Present

Mayor C. Chisholm
Deputy Mayor L Boucher
Councillor L. Chisholm
Councillor S. Cameron
Councillor W. Cormier
Councillor D. MacInnis
Councillor J. MacPherson

Also Present

CAO S. Feist
D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk
S. Scannell, Special Projects Co-ordinator

Delegates
Media

Call to Order

Mayor C. Chisholm called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Approval of Agenda

“It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Agenda as amended.” Motion carried.

Mayor C. Chisholm introduced Mr. J. Beaton, CEO of the new Eastern Regional Strait Enterprise Network.

Approval of Minutes

“It was Moved and Seconded that the Minutes of the January 18, 2016 (Regular Council), and January 28, 2016 (Email Poll) be approved as circulated.” Motion carried.

Business from Minutes

- Community Grants Policy – Part II
- S. Scannell provided a Power Point presentation and details on the proposed changes, community grants process, a reserve of some funds, advertising, and sponsorship.

Brief discussion took place.

It was “Moved and Seconded that the amendments to the Community to the Grants Policy be approved.” Motion carried.

New Business

- Hiring of Returning Officer
- It was “Moved and Seconded that the hiring of the Returning Officer and Deputy Returning Officer be delegated to the CAO.” Motion carried with Councillor S. Cameron voting against the motion.

Brief discussion took place. Councillor W. Cormier provided comments from the Municipal Election Act.

Correspondence

- Mr. P. Curry; Antigonish Chamber of Commerce
Mayor C. Chisholm spoke to correspondence received from the Antigonish Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber of Commerce is seeking to have the date of the Christmas Parade changed. The Mayor noted that the correspondence should have gone to the Downtown Business Association as they would be the group organizing and making the decision on the dates for the parade.

CAO S. Feist noted there is a specific reason for setting the date for the parade. He noted that they use the Millenium Centre for parking and have to give consideration to many things, such as X-ring date, hockey games, etc. Further, consideration must be given for alternate dates.

The CAO noted that as the parade and tree lighting have now been separated, it provides an opportunity to draw people into town twice.

Brief discussion took place.

Mayor C. Chisholm noted the letter was addressed to him and Council. Correspondence will be sent back advising him who he should address the matter with.

Staff Reports

- CAO Report
 - Eastern Strait Enterprise Network (ERSEN)
Previously discussed.
 - Federation of Canadian Municipality (FCM) Spring Conference (June 2-5, 2016, Winnipeg, MB)
CAO S. Feist noted he may or may not be attending the FCM Conference in June, 2016. Mayor C. Chisholm noted that as of yesterday, the agenda still has not been posted. He advised he will wait to see the agenda, and that the items on the agenda will determine whether or not he attends the conference.
 - CARILED
CAO S. Feist noted that he has participated in the CARILED program on economic development twice since being employed with the Town, with a delegation coming to Antigonish as well. He noted he will be participating once again and will be attending (in Jamaica) the second week of March.

The CAO noted major renovations for Phase I and II of town hall upgrades have been carried out using reserve funds. However, with the rates low, it appears to be an appropriate time to go with a Temporary Borrowing Resolution for the renovations.

It was "Moved and Seconded to approve a Temporary Borrowing Resolution in the amount of \$400,000.00 for the Spring Debenture."

It was "Moved and Seconded to accept the CAO's verbal report as presented." Motion carried.

- Special Projects Coordinator
 - Noise By-law Amendments

Mayor C. Chisholm noted S. Scannell would be presenting the amendments to the Noise By-law.

S. Scannell provided a PowerPoint presentation and noted many of the comments included in his presentation are the result of a public meeting and a meeting with the Residential Tenancy Board/landlords.

It was noted that the S/Cst. currently maintains a landlord listing and that it is used and updated.

S. Scannell then went through the six (6) next steps from his presentation.

Council was advised that if approved, it would mean a landlord would not be fined if s/he has already taken steps toward eviction. He further noted that through discussion with the Residential Tenancy Board, landlords cannot download fines onto tenants.

He further noted that MGA is ambiguous on the matter and comments from a solicitor notes there is no case law on the matter.

Councillor J. MacPherson questioned the fines that are proposed in the By-law, with the Mayor noting that a Judge has the authority to reduce a fine.

S. Scannell responded to a query from Councillor D. MacInnis.

Mayor C. Chisholm reiterated that there is no case law, and there does not appear to be any other municipal unit that has a similar By-law that would see the owner or landlord fined.

Councillor J. MacPherson stated he would not be supporting the amendments. Councillor W. Cormier spoke further to the matter in that the By-law is intended to be fair to the Town residents, students and landlords. He spoke to changes on campus which have an impact on the Town and its residents. Councillor W. Cormier provided comment from reports released by the RCMP.

Councillor W. Cormier further stated that the by-law is for an 'informed landlord', and that it would be very rare to be levied a fine on a first offence. He further expanded on the matter.

Councillor S. Cameron noted that this matter was recently discussed at a Police & License meeting. He noted that there has not been a repeat offender.

Deputy Mayor L. Boucher stated that decisions have to be made on fact and spoke to those working to make improvements.

It was "Moved and Seconded to approve the amended Noise By-law as presented." Motion defeated, with four (4) voting against, and three (3) voting for the motion.

- Maple Drive/Street

Mayor C. Chisholm requested Council delay a decision on Maple Street/Drive matter to the March meeting, to ensure all involved can have their say. The Mayor further noted he had stated to the residents in the area that a decision would be made at the March meeting.

The Mayor requested the CAO follow up to ensure street signage has been changed in the area of Maple Drive.

- Engineering and Municipal Services Director Report

It was “Moved and Seconded to accept the Engineering and Municipal Services Director Report.” Motion carried.

Councillor D. MacInnis questioned the status of the budget for snow removal. CAO S. Feist noted 58% of the snow removal budget has been spent, and 50% of the salt typically used.

- Planning/Building Services & Inspection/Fire Safety Officers’ Reports

It was “Moved and Seconded to accept the Planning/Building Services & Inspection/Fire Safety Officers’ Reports.” Motion carried.

- Recreation Director Report

It was “Moved and Seconded to accept the Recreation Director Report.” Motion carried.

If a temporary/seasonal bridge is used for pedestrians it should be of a design that could be used again for trail development.

Committee Reports

- Police & License Committee

It was “Moved and Seconded that Council direct the Town Engineer to consult with the Traffic Authority to investigate the use of an alternative line painting pattern (St. FX).”

Councillor S. Cameron noted that the Town now has the equipment and ability to paint crosswalk and parking lot lines. He further noted that it had been discussed at the Police & License Committee that the lines be painted in a manner similar to what St. FX uses.

The CAO spoke to the fact that with the use of zebra lines, it may improve visibility, but also is more slippery and subject to more slips and falls happening.

Councillor W. Cormier spoke on the reflective tape and its effectiveness, and suggested leaving the use of zebra stripes to CAO.

Councillor S. Cameron noted he was not suggesting all lines be painted in a zebra pattern, rather, those that are most visible.

The CAO advised he would speak with the Traffic Authority and bring a report to the next regular meeting of council.

- Beautification Councillor L. Chisholm advised she did not have quorum for the past two scheduled meetings.

- Waste – Councillor J. MacPherson advised that although he had a meeting scheduled for February, he did not have a quorum.

Mayor C. Chisholm noted that many meetings are being cancelled due to the lack of a quorum and the importance of the meetings being held.

- Recreation
Deputy Mayor L. Boucher noted that staff are very busy with snow shoes/skiis. Signage has been put up at Golf Course. Staff will endeavor to organize a family fun day at the Golf Club.

With there being no further business, it was “Moved and Seconded that the meeting be adjourned.” Motion carried.