

**Regular Council Meeting
April 24, 2017
Town Council Chambers**

Present

Mayor L. Boucher
Deputy Mayor W. Cormier
Councillor M. Farrell
Councillor A. Murray
Councillor D. MacInnis
Councillor J. MacPherson
Councillor D. Roberts

Also Present

CAO J. Lawrence
D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk

Media
Invited Guests

Call to Order

Mayor L. Boucher called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

"It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Minutes of the In Camera Council and Regular Council meetings of (March 20, 2017), In Camera Council (March 22, 2017), and Email Polls (March 30, April 4, and April 12, 2017)." Motion carried.

Presentations (Beautification and Land Rehabilitation)

- Bart Wainwright

Councillor A. Murray called on B. Wainwright and presented him with a Certificate of Appreciation. B. Wainwright thanked Council and provided comment on beautification efforts.

The media took advantage of a photo opportunity.

- Phyllis and Henri Steeghs

Councillor A. Murray called on Phyllis-Baker Steeghs and Henri Steeghs, and noted his dismay in their closing business, along with the Town's loss of their assistance and guidance.

He presented the Steeghs with a Certificate of Recognition and thanked them for their assistance and guidance over the years.

H. Steeghs provided comment noting his recollection of when Pleasant Valley Nurseries first began, and comments from then Mayor Colin Chisholm on his efforts to beautify the town.

The media took advantage of a photo opportunity.

- Ms. I. MacLeod; Re: Vital Signs

Ms. I. MacLeod spoke on recent legislative changes to children in care, and spoke briefly about the Vital Signs project. Council was advised by Ms. I. MacLeod that part of a goal is for Antigonish to be a Vital Signs Community.

With regard to funding I. MacLeod noted a philanthropist is willing to give \$15,000 if it can be matched (two (2) businesses already agreeing to partner at \$1,000.), and spoke to timelines. Council was advised that the request is for the Town to be a funder. Mayor L. Boucher advised she had reviewed much of the information provided and noted that the information is similar to data that Council would be seeking in the future.

In response to the Mayor, I. MacLeod spoke to the businesses she had approached, noting that she will be speaking to the Chamber of Commerce, as well as Awesome Antigonish. She noted this area to be covered would be Port Hawkesbury to Antigonish.

Mayor L. Boucher thanked I. MacLeod for her presentation and noted Council would consider the matter during budget deliberations.

At 6:30 PM I. MacLeod concluded her presentation and left the meeting.

- Ms. J. DeWolfe; Housing Nova Scotia

Ms. J. DeWolfe provided a brief synopsis of the area covered, noting Eastern Mainland Housing provides housing, while her department deals with homeowners and assisting people to stay in their homes.

Council was provided an overview of non-repayable loans versus emergency repair programs, Access a Home program, Senior-specific grant programs, Forgivable Loans – Disability and Home Preservation.

In response to a query from Mayor L. Boucher, J. DeWolfe noted there is program for landlords to carry out repairs, and agree to a 10 year low-income families, however, uptake on the program has been near 0. It was noted there is another program that deals with co-operative housing.

Brief discussion took place on contactor information for J. DeWolfe, with some Councillors noting they may be aware of some contractors that might be available to carry out some of this type of work.

At 6:52 the presentation concluded.

- S. O'Toole and F. Martin Re: Arts Council

S. O'Toole thanked Council for the opportunity to appear before Council. S. O'Toole introduced herself and provided a brief background on her history. F. Martin introduced himself and provided a brief background

S. O'Toole noted that Antigonish has become a thriving area for arts, and spoke to connections with the arts, culture and history. She further spoke to a need for a dedicated staff person, similar to recreation but for arts, and a permanent arts centre. S. O'Toole noted she could see a role for this here, as well as a coordinator becoming part of Town and Gown.

F. Martin provided comment, noting he would like to see more money spent toward arts. He spoke to the arts in Antigonish and the spinoffs.

It was noted that along with the Town, the County would be approached, and that funding from various levels is also available.

A slide presentation was made to Council, outlining various forms of art.

In response to a query, Councillor A. Murray was advised on the various groups and their mandates and roles. S. O'Toole responded to questions, and supporting a theory that having a permanent position, even if only for a 3 year pilot project would be a positive move.

Councillor D. Roberts spoke to an interest in having an events coordinator, a building for arts & entertainment, and noted the bigger picture should be looked at.

Deputy Mayor W. Cormier spoke to the energy that comes from the arts. Brief discussion ensued on the future of the current Legion building.

At 7:22 Council thanked the delegates and they left the meeting

Business from Minutes

- Contract with AMG Energy

"It was moved and seconded to participate in the Direct Load Control Project as presented by Jim Ratallack, representing AMG Energy at the March meeting." Motion carried

New Business

- Town of Antigonish Accessibility Committee – Membership Appointment

Mayor L. Boucher spoke to the matter of accessibility, noting she had heard many concerns while campaigning. She stated that this is the first step in addressing accessibility. Council was advised that there are spots for four community members, two with disabilities, and two stakeholders.

The Mayor responded to a query from Councillor D. Roberts.

"It was Moved and Seconded to appoint Ms. K. MacDonald to the Town of Antigonish Accessibility Advisory Committee." Motion carried.

"It was Moved and Seconded to appoint Mr. G. Kell to the Town of Antigonish Accessibility Advisory Committee." Motion carried.

"It was Moved and Seconded to appoint Ms. D. MacCallum to the Town of Antigonish Accessibility Advisory Committee." Motion carried.

Councillor W. Cormier noted interest from the County, and expressed appreciation for those involved. He then queried as to expectations, with the Mayor noting that there will be a line item in the budget for consideration.

CAO J. Lawrence noted that Ms. E. Kehoe has been sourcing possible funding initiatives.

- Net Metering

Mayor L. Boucher called on S. Scannell, who provided an overview of research carried out regarding net metering for the Town of Antigonish Electric Utility. It was noted this initiative began with discussion with Antigonish Cooperative Energy (ACE), who have been ordering bulk purchases of solar panels.

S. Scannell noted Riverport Electric and NSPI are the only two electric utilities in NS who provide net metering. He reviewed the meaning of net metering, and how it would work for the Town. Legislative requirements were then reviewed, along with permissible equipment. Emission credits were briefly discussed. Distribution zones and equipment capacity were briefly discussed.

Customer usage and production measurement were reviewed, along with data collection and reporting and tariffs and billing.

CAO J. Lawrence noted the following with regard to the proposed structure:

- The consumption charge on an electric bill can be reduced to 0 at the consumption rate charged by the utility.
- Any credit beyond 0 consumption will be rebated at the NSPI wholesale rate.
- The utility will undertake a rate study to ensure that the base charge charged by the utility covers fixed costs.
- The base charge will not be rebated.
- The solar panels installed on any building will be sized to produce only the electrical requirements of the structure over the long term.
- The amount of the name plate on any one unit generator will be capped at 100 kilowatts.

Councillor W. Cormier questioned the element of staff training and whether there is much consideration in this regard. CAO J. Lawrence noted he would ensure staff are trained.

Councillor D. MacInnis questioned HST on electricity being generated. Discussion ensued.

“It was Moved and Seconded that staff submit to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board regulations to empower net metering for residential customers of the Town of Antigonish Electric Utility subject to the conditions set out in this report.” Motion carried.

Correspondence

There was no Correspondence.

Staff Reports

- CAO Report

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

Committee Reports

- Waste Management

Councillor J. MacPherson advised that a clean up is being held this Saturday, and that he would like to have as many Councillors assist as possible. He further noted the bulky waste collection is scheduled for May 15, 16, or 17th, depending on a persons' regular collection day.

- Beautification and Land Rehabilitation Committee

Councillor A. Murray put forth the following motions:

- "It was recommended to Council that consideration be given during budget deliberations to complete the following projects: replace planter boxes; purchase décor to celebrate Canada 150; purchase Celtic Wreath for Lights Standards; removal and replacement of trees and replacement of damaged flower basket brackets." Motion carried.

Discussion took place on ongoing details regarding Celtic wreaths.

- "It is recommended that Council appoint D. Geldart to the Beautification and Land Rehabilitation Committee." Motion carried.

- Police and License Committee

Councillor D. Roberts noted that a meeting was held, however they did not have a quorum. She further advised she would be seeking funding to support the flag/crosswalk program and monies for meter repairs during budget deliberations.

She noted her dismay that a number of flags at the crosswalk have disappeared.

CAO J. Lawrence noted a meeting will be held in the near future to discuss flagpoles, flags and banners.

D. Roberts noted that sponsorship may be in the works for various crosswalks within the Town.

- Recreation Committee

Councillor M. Farrell noted that the Recreation Committee met April 1st, and reviewed guidelines, projects, discussed Canada Day and Canada 150, as well as the possibility of a sidewalk to Mt. Cameron.

- Planning Advisory Committee (PAC)

Deputy Mayor W. Cormier advised a meeting had been held, however there were no motions to bring forth, and that work is ongoing on the downtown peripheral area, with a couple of special meetings coming up.

At 8:11 the meeting was adjourned.

Back to In Camera.