

**Regular Town Council
January 15, 2018
Town Council Chambers**

Present

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

Also Present

CAO J. Lawrence
D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk
S. Scannell, Special Projects Coordinator

Media

Presenters
Members of the Gallery

Call to Order

Mayor L. Boucher called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM and welcomed everyone.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

“It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Minutes of December 18, 2017 Regular and In Camera, and Public Hearing Minutes of December 19, 2017.” Motion carried.

Presentations

- Ali Al Shawali; Presentation to Council

Mayor L. Boucher called upon Mr. A. Al Shiwali who was accompanied by Mr. J. Beaton. On behalf of Mr. Al Shiwali, Mr. Beaton noted that Mr. Al Shiwali is a Syrian refugee who has been in Antigonish since November, 2016, and wished to express his appreciation for the welcoming he has received from this community, and decided he wanted to present something tangible to the Town. On behalf of the Town Council and community Mayor L. Boucher accepted a marble carving created by Mr. Al Shiwali. Photos of the presentation were taken.

- Festival Antigonish (Reema Fuller)

Mayor L. Boucher called on R. Fuller to come forward to make her presentation. She introduced herself and Ms. A. Boyd who accompanied her.

A PowerPoint presentation was made detailing staffing, professional artists, benefits to the Town, recap of the previous season, Festival Antigonish Summer Theatre (FAST) Foundation, current Board, revenue, 2017 funding, and the collaboration between Festival Antigonish and Theatre Antigonish. The presentation wrapped up with a short video.

Mayor L. Boucher opened the floor to Council for questions. Councillor A. Murray applauded the presenters. Mayor L. Boucher spoke briefly to the Town's grants and a link to the Town's website.

- Jim Retallack, AMG

J. Retallack introduced himself, and noted he would be providing an update on direct load control. He noted the Town has a Demand cost of \$2.8 M annually and six interconnect points with Nova Scotia Power, advising that his company is providing an opportunity to help reduce these costs by deferring loads.

Council was provided with details on partnerships with homeowners to date, values for various areas, and savings and payback times. He noted this is an opportunity for residential awareness, integration of renewables, and PACE for electric heat pumps. He noted the intent is to take the information gathered to date along with numbers and work with staff. He advised he would likely be back again in March to further update Council.

In response to a query from Mayor L. Boucher J. Retallack indicated it was not too late for people to sign up, and agreed to provide the Mayor with additional information.

Business from Minutes

- Banners and Flags Policy

Mayor L. Boucher called on S. Scannell who noted he had circulated copies of an amended Flag and Banner Policy for Council's consideration. He advised the amended policy provides more guidance on how requests can be considered, noting it opens up more opportunities for organizations to fly their flags. Council was advised that the only budget implications would be for banners, as the Town generally has charged back contracting costs for installation, which is addressed as well in the Special Events Planning Guide.

It was noted that staff is recommending that the Town appeal the previous policy and accept the proposed amended policy.

In response to a query from Councillor W. Cormier, CAO J. Lawrence stated there would be no cost associated with flags, however there would be for banners.

"It was Moved and Seconded to repeal the Banners and Flags policy." Motion carried.

"It was Moved and Seconded to adopt the Banners and Flags policy as presented." Motion carried.

- Zone 7 African Heritage Committee Request to Fly Flag

Mayor L. Boucher noted that at the last council meeting Council received a request to fly the African Heritage flag during African Heritage Month (February).

"It was Moved and Seconded to fly the African Heritage flag (along with the Canadian flag) as requested." Motion carried.

New Business

- African Heritage Month Proclamation (Signing)

Mayor L. Boucher invited those from the African Heritage Zone 7 Committee to come forward, and noted the Proclamation would be read tonight. She noted the request to fly the flag came from Junior MacLellan. Mayor L. Boucher read and signed the proclamation.

- Re: Public Hearing – Proposed Amendment to By-Law 94-63; Lodging Residences
Mayor L. Boucher noted that she had declared a conflict of interest during last month's public hearing, expanded on the details, and declared a conflict of interest for the upcoming discussion.

D. Roberts invited S. Day to the floor, who pointed out the purpose of the proposed amendment was to bring clarity to the Municipal Planning Strategy and make it easier to manage. He noted he had made two small changes as a result of the public hearing – changing the term dwelling to living quarters, and defining lodging residences.

"It was Moved and Seconded that Council approve the recommendations contained in the staff Planning Report which would set the maximum number of rented bedrooms contained in a residential unit permitted in an R1 Zone to four." Motion carried; and further

"It was Moved and Seconded to make minor corrections to the proposed definition of lodging residence in By-law 94-63 so as to replace the term "dwelling" with "a set of living quarters", and to retain the term "duplex" within Part 2 Definitions but have it point to the definition for a 2-unit dwelling." Motion carried.

Various Councillors spoke to the amendment and its importance.

Mayor L. Boucher reminded those in attendance to attend the Engage session.

At 7:13 PM Mayor L. Boucher called the meeting back into Order

- Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) – Emergency Management; Town/County/St. FX (J. Lawrence)

CAO J. Lawrence advised Council that work is being carried out on a MoU for an Emergency Management agreement between the Town, County and St. FX University.

Correspondence

- Mayor B. Chisholm-Beaton Re: Consideration of Renaming Causeway Bridge
Mayor L. Boucher spoke to a request by Mayor B. Chisholm-Beaton for a letter of support to rename the current Canso Causeway, to include 'Unamak'i.'" Motion carried.

"It was Moved and Seconded to send a letter of support to have the current Canso Causeway name changed to include 'Unamak'i.'" Motion carried.

Staff Reports

- CAO Report

Mayor L. Boucher called on Council for any questions they had in regard to the CAO Report.

Councillor W. Cormier noted a positive comment he received regarding Public Works staff's clean up from Christmas Day, with Mayor L. Boucher reporting the same.

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

- Engage (Update, S. Scannell)

S. Scannell noted he was taking the opportunity to promote the Engage session being held on January 31st at 6:30 PM at St. Ninian Place. He indicated they are getting word out through the media, the Town's website and an outreach team. He noted this is an opportunity to see what we can do to for our community.

Brief discussion took place.

- Business Improvement District (BID) (Update, S. Scannell)

S. Scannell provided an update on the BID, noting the consultation process has begun, and provided an update. He further reported on an open house scheduled for January 22-26, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm at the Eastern Straight Regional Enterprise Network (ESREN) office, where staff will be available to speak with any business/commercial property owners on the proposed BID

Mayor L. Boucher noted that she wants people to be informed and make an informed decision. Council was advised that S. Scannell will also attend a Chamber of Commerce event regarding the proposed BID. Brief discussion took place on the County's involvement.

At 7:32 he concluded his presentation

Committee Reports

- Recreation

Councillor M. Farrell reported on Recreation matters including the Canada 150 baby program now complete, Chisholm/MacLellan connector path completed, grant application forms now available online, Volunteer of the Year Award now closed – now new one for youth volunteers which is open for nominations until January 31st.

Councillor M. Farrell noted that Special Olympics meetings are being held weekly and noted she is Chair of the Opening and Closing ceremonies. She noted discussion is taking place regarding the 55+ Provincial Games, which will ramp up after the Special Olympics. Council was updated on the new outdoor rink.

Councillor M. Farrell acknowledged Councillor A. Murray's support for Special Olympics.

- Accessibility Advisory Committee

Councillor D. MacInnis noted that an Accessibility Committee meeting is scheduled for January 26th at 1:00 PM where it is expected some discussion will take place on budget and priorities.

Councillor W. Cormier commented that the new beeper at the lights by the by the former corner store isn't very loud. CAO J. Lawrence expanded on the sound and fine tuning. He noted it will take good weather and time, to get fully functional.

Brief discuss took place on funding for a ramp for Town Hall.

- Police & License Committee

Deputy Mayor D. Roberts advised that the Police & License Committee had met but did not have a quorum, and that a skatepark location is close but not finalized. She noted CAO J. Lawrence advised that a third party is involved, and he would not like to jeopardize the discussions. She further noted that noise complaints are down, and that she has asked members to review the Taxi By-law, discussion taking place on parking, meters, and that Town and Eastern Mainland Housing unsightly premises matters are also ongoing.

Councillor W. Cormier noted he was questioned on Uber, and asked what it would fall under. CAO J. Lawrence noted that although it is not a municipal matter, although some do provide direction. CAO J. Lawrence advised that the Department. of Energy called today and is looking to speak to the Town about an alternate transportation trial (3 municipal units to be tried).

- Beautification and Land Rehabilitation Committee

Councillor A. Murray noted that a Beautification Committee meeting was held, the flower selection subcommittee has made a great colour selection for this year, and will be done in conjunction with the colours of the Special Olympics logo.

Councillor A. Murray spoke to a 17-year-old tree report undertaken by H. Steeghs which was very well done, but is now out of date. He noted the Committee also has reports from the Gardener for two years, and that a tree sub-committee has been struck and provided details on the make-up of the sub-committee. He further noted the group will meet at their leisure, and hopefully the Town will end up with a comprehensive tree report.

- Waste Management

Councillor J. MacPherson noted he had no motions, and expand on a recent tree mulching event which went very well.

Council was advised on a concern with the use of plastic bags and the fact that China will no longer accept them.

- Fire Committee

Councillor W. Cormier indicated he had nothing to report.

- Planning Advisory Committee

Mayor L. Boucher noted that as there was not meeting she had nothing to report

At 7:49 PM "it was Moved and Seconded to adjourn." Motion carried.