

**Regular Meeting of Council
November 20, 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

J. Lawrence, CAO
D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk
S. Rector, Director of Corporate Services

Media
Delegates

Call to Order

Mayor L. Boucher called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

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 from the October 16, 2017 (Regular and In Camera), November 2, 2017 (Special Council Meeting), and November 16, 2017 (Email Poll).” Motion carried.

Presentations

- The Time is NOW Campaign

Mayor L. Boucher noted that Mr. S. Smith had made a presentation to Council previously and that the Town has made a commitment of \$50,000. over the next five years. Mr. S. Smith was in attendance and provided comment and thanks for Town’s financial commitment for St. Martha’s Hospital ‘The Time is NOW’ campaign. Photos were taken.

- Presentation to S. Feist

Mayor L. Boucher spoke to an award presented to S. Feist by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities for his involvement with the CARILED program. He was further presented with a jacket on behalf of the Town.

- Canadian Association for Community Living (CACL)

Members of the CACL watering crew, along with Executive Director J. Teasdale, were in attendance to receive certificates of appreciation from the Town for their commitment to the Town’s Beautification efforts. Councillor A. Murray spoke to the watering crew’s dedication of ensuring the flower baskets were watered regularly. Following the presentation of individual certificates, photos were taken of the group and some Councillors collectively.

- Scott Miracle-Gro® Garden Winners

Councillor A. Murray spoke to the Scott Miracle-Gro® Best Garden award program, which was undertaken in conjunction with Communities in Bloom this year.

A total of six (6) awards were presented. The recipients represented Bethany Gardens, St. Martha's Regional Hospital, St. Francis Xavier University, RK MacDonald Nursing Home, St. Ninian Street apartments, and Mr. C. Gallant, with Councillor A. Murray providing comment and details on each of the gardens as the recipients accepted their awards.

A collective photo including the award winners and some members of Council was taken.

Business from Minutes

- 2017 Union of Nova Scotia Municipal Climate Change Leaders' Award

Mayor L. Boucher announced that at the recent UNSM Conference, the three towns that form the Alternative Resource Energy Authority (AREA) (Antigonish, Mahone Bay and Berwick) and jointly own and operate a windfarm in Ellershouse were recognized, and received the 2017 UNSM Climate Change Leaders' Award. Mayor L. Boucher and Council took the opportunity for a photo with the award.

- Appointment of Deputy Mayor

Mayor L. Boucher recognized Deputy Mayor W. Cormier and thanked him for his assistance and guidance over the past year. Deputy Mayor W. Cormier provided his comment and nominated Councillor D. Roberts for the position of Deputy Mayor. After calling three (3) time for further nominations, Mayor L. Boucher declared Councillor D. Roberts as the new Deputy Mayor.

New Business

- Amendments to Solar Connectivity Policy

S. Rector reported on proposed amendments to the Solar Connectivity Policy.

Councillor W. Cormier questioned whether those applying for a dual meter should have to pay for it. S. Rector noted that they would only pay the difference between the cost of a regular meter and a dual meter.

"It was Moved and Seconded to approve amendments to the Solar Connectivity Policy as presented." Motion carried.

CAO J. Lawrence provided his comments on the matter. S. Rector responded to a query from Mayor L. Boucher.

- Seven (7) Month Update – Town Financials

S. Rector noted that the package was previously distributed, and that the details cover the past (seven) 7 months.

S. Rector reviewed financial details regarding the provincial and federal grants-in-lieu, sales of service, unconditional transfers, expenditures for various departments and services, and the water and electric utilities.

At 7:00 PM S. Day and K. MacInnis joined the meeting.

- Development Officer – Extension to March 31, 2018

CAO J. Lawrence spoke to the Development Officer's position, which is currently under contract to December 31, 2017, and the need to extend the position to March 31st.

"It was Moved and Seconded to extend the term of the development officer position, currently staffed by K. MacInnis, to the end of March 31, 2018." Motion carried.

- Staff Christmas Bonus

"It was Moved and Seconded that staff receive a Christmas Bonus in the same amount as last year." Motion carried.

Staff Reports

- CAO Report

Mayor L. Boucher spoke to the CAO's report and called for questions from Council.

In response to a query from Councillor J. MacPherson, CAO J. Lawrence noted that the project to install lights at the intersection of West and St. Ninian Street has been delayed until approximately the end of November, as the company is waiting for a part. He further noted the company is under penalty due to the delay.

Committee Reports

- Planning Advisory Committee

"It was Moved and Seconded that Council give First Reading to proposed amendments to the Land Use By-law concerning the definition of lodging residences and other related changes. Council thereby agrees to move to a Public Hearing on the amendments which would establish that residences featuring more than four (4) rented bedrooms will be deemed to be lodging residences." Motion carried.

In response to a question from Councillor D. MacInnis, S. Day noted that existing 4 bedroom units are grandfathered in terms of Planning.

S. Day expanded further on the motion noting they are aiming at bringing the Land Use By-law in line with the Municipal Planning Strategy and referred to the large number of 5+ bedroom homes in Town. He noted they are also getting rid of some confusing definitions regarding basement apartments which will be referred to as secondary apartments. S. Day noted that lodging residences are being based on the number of bedrooms, and further noted they are getting rid of the term duplex, which will be referred to as a two-unit dwelling unit.

S. Day noted that accessory units are limited in size, and are now permitted in bungalow using the same entrance.

- Fire Committee

Councillor W. Cormier indicated he had nothing to report on.

- Waste Management Committee

Councillor J. MacPherson noted that a lot of materials were collected during the last curbside pickup. He further noted that a lot of people were driving around and picking stuff up from the curb.

Council was advised that the matter was discussed at waste management, and as a result, a new 'we care to share' logo and tag line has been created, with the hope of having people put stuff that they may no longer want at curbside for someone to use.

"It was Moved and Seconded that Council designate September 14 and 15, 2018 as a special curbside event called We Care to Share." Motion carried

Brief discussion took place, with Councillor W. Cormier speaking to an issue with the bulky pick up program this past Spring.

- Beautification and Land Rehabilitation Committee

Councillor A. Murray spoke to ribbons obtained by Councillor M. Farrell, who confirmed she donated the ribbons to the Beautification Committee for use on the wreaths that will adorn the street lights. He further noted that greenery will be placed in the boxes along Main Streets, and further swags are being created to adorn the large front windows of Town Hall.

- Police & License Committee

Deputy Mayor D. Roberts reported on items discussed at a recent Police & License Committee including skateboard park, taxicab businesses, by-laws, Homecoming and parking.

"It was Moved and Seconded that the Winter Parking Ban be put in effect from December 1st to April 18th annually." Motion carried.

"It was Moved and Seconded that there be free parking beginning on the evening of Moonlight Madness (November 24, 2017) to the end of the Christmas season on Creighton Lane and Sydney Streets." Motion carried.

- Accessibility Advisory Committee

Councillor D. MacInnis indicated he had nothing to report on.

- Recreation & Special Events

Councillor M. Farrell reported on nominations for the Volunteer of the Year award for next year, the 'Field of Dreams' project, planned walk and winter solstice. She noted equipment has been ordered for an outdoor rink and that volunteers are being sought to help maintain it.

Council was advised on a free skate being held across the Country on December 10th from 4:30 to 6:30 PM. All Staff and Council are welcome to attend. It was noted snacks will be available.

Councillor M. Farrell reported that a trail has been started in the area of Chisholm and MacLellan Streets, grants are being applied for and the Christmas tree lighting and parade will be held this Saturday.

It was noted that Ms. C. Gillis, Councillor M. Farrell and T. Cameron are working on the Opening and Closing for the 2018 Special Olympics, and are putting a proposal together for M. Quinn.

In response to a query from Deputy Mayor D. Roberts, Councillor M. Farrell spoke further to the 'Field of Dreams' project, and noted the outdoor rink is to be located on one of the ballfield.

With there being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:23 PM