

TOWN OF NEW GLASGOW
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 21, 2019

A Committee of the Whole meeting of New Glasgow Town Council was held on Monday, January 21, 2019 at approximately 6:20 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Present were: Mayor Dicks; Deputy Mayor MacDonald, Councillors MacCulloch; Guthro; Lewis; Fraser and Proudfoot. Also present were: Lisa MacDonald, CAO; Earl MacKenzie, Town Engineer; Geralyn MacDonald, Director of Community Economic Development; Bonnie Coulter, Director of Corporate Services; Kelly Sloan, Executive Assistant and Frank DeMont Solicitor.

AGENDA

It was regularly moved and seconded that the agenda be approved as presented.

Motion carried.

MATTERS FOR SENIOR STAFF

RFP MARINA

Council reviewed a memo from the Director of Community Economic Development recommending that the Town issue an RFP to operate the New Glasgow Riverfront Marina for the 2019 season.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the recommendation be approved.

Motion carried.

PLANNING FOR ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION TRAIL & FEASIBILITY STUDY

Council reviewed a memo from the Director of Community Economic Development which included an Active Transportation and Trail Feasibility Study for the

Town of New Glasgow prepared by WSP Canada Inc. in consultation with citizens that identifies sustainable infrastructure and design that could be applied to the existing New Glasgow Trail system. She requested that Council endorse the study.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Active Transportation and Trail Feasibility Study be approved as presented.

Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

UPDATE MARKET TO MAIN EVENT 2019

Council reviewed a memo from the Director of Community Economic Development stating that at the December 17 Council meeting Council requested Community Economic Development staff to send a letter to all downtown businesses on Provost and Archimedes Streets requesting their input on how the Town can work with both the New Glasgow Farmers Market and the downtown business in making the Market to Main Street 2019 event an event that showcases and benefits the downtown core.

Councillor Lewis stated that the input received from the downtown businesses was mostly negative – not in favor of the Market to Main Street event. He asked if the input from the businesses was provided to the Farmer's Market. Mayor Dicks stated that it has not been provided to the Farmer's Market.

Councillor Proudfoot suggested that the event could be held in the parking lot that houses the Farmer's Market.

Deputy Mayor MacDonald stated that we did ask for the opinion of the Downtown businesses so we need to take their opinions seriously.

The Town Engineer stated that the parking lot housing the Farmer's Market is sloped so may not be ideal for a Market to Main Street dinner event.

Councillor Fraser suggested that we consult with the downtown businesses and see how we can accommodate them and their concerns.

Mayor Dicks stated that this request was considered by the CED and BAC Committees. It is obvious that some of the downtown businesses have a negative opinion of the Farmer's Market so do we address this issue after the fact or step back and realize there is a problem. She noted that the BAC thought the event would be a good marketing opportunity for the downtown businesses.

It was regularly moved and seconded that because of the feedback from the downtown businesses owners the request be denied.

The motion passed by a vote of five in favour and two nay votes cast by Councillors Lewis and Fraser.

LETTER NEW GLASGOW FARMERS MARKET COOPERATIVE

Council reviewed a letter from the New Glasgow Farmer's Market noting their concerns regarding a letter that was sent out at Council's request to downtown businesses regarding the Market's request to hold Market to Main on Provost Street this coming August. The letter had included materials reflecting online comments.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the letter be placed on file.

Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PICTOU ANTIGONISH REGIONAL LIBRARY UPDATE

Councillor Fraser stated that the Library is facing cost pressures. He indicated that there are frontline staff that are barely making minimum wage. The Library may be making a proposal to all Councils to increase their share of funding for the Libraries however this will not occur until after a meeting of the Provincial Chief Librarians is held. He also indicated that there is a fundraiser being held on March 3 from 6 – 9 at the Library. The tickets are \$60 per person for the dinner and silent auction.

FIXED ROUTE PILOT UPDATE

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO stating that the Fixed Route Public Transportation Pilot Steering Committee has had one meeting to date. The consultants, WSP have completed two technical memos which are attached and they anticipate two further technical memos by January 25. The next meeting is February 1.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the report be placed on file.

Motion carried.

COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO indicating the citizen appointments and terms of reference for Committees of Council 2019. She stated that some of the committees require updated terms of reference which will be prepared and presented at the February 5 Council meeting for Councils approval and then the call for representatives will be made through the media.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the report be placed on file.

Motion carried.

QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Future of the Downtown Community Garden – Councillor Guthro informed Council that residents have asked him about the future of the community garden on Provost Street. He stated that there are rumors circulating that the lot it is located on is being sold.

Mayor Dicks stated that there are other lots in this location that are not owned by the Town however the Town does own the land the community garden is currently located on.

The Director of Community Economic Development read an email from Carey Allen who initiated the community garden last summer which provided an update on the plans for the garden for the coming season. She has applied for a grant to assist with the costs associated with the garden.

Councillor Lewis asked if the Town has any funds budgeted for this purpose.

The Director of Community Economic Development stated that there are funds available from a Provincial Community Garden grant the Town received.

NEW BUSINESS

NSFM SPRING WORKSHOP & FALL CONFERENCE TOPIC REQUEST

Council reviewed a memo from the NSFM requesting topics the membership would like to see at the upcoming spring workshop and fall conference.

It was agreed to place the memo on file.

MEMO MORE RUN

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO indicating the important dates for the MORE Run which will be held on May 8, 2019.

It was agreed to place the memo on file.

TOWN INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITIES

Council reviewed a memo from the Director of Corporate Services and Town Engineer recommending that the Town prioritize the following two projects for the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program - Green Environmental Quality Stream: Southend Storm Sewer Separation – Phase 1 - replace the existing storm sewer overflow lines on both McColl and Victoria Streets. The cost estimate is \$3,100,000 with the Town's contribution being \$827,700 which would be funded with borrowings from MFC and replace the water line on Abercrombie Road from Maple Avenue to Dalcrombie Drive at an estimated cost of \$1,600,000 with the Town's contribution being \$427,200 which the Water Utility can fund with borrowings from MFC or the depreciation reserve.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the recommendation be approved.

Motion carried.

FCM 2019 ANNUAL CONFERENCE – QUEBEC CITY

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO stating that the FCM Annual Conference will be held in Quebec City from May 30 to June 1. She provided a copy of the portion of the Travel Policy that states “The Mayor and two Councillors will be permitted to attend the FCM Annual Conference and/or the FCM Sustainable Communities Conference. Councillors attending would have their names drawn by lot and would only be eligible once every three years during their Council term”.

Mayor Dicks asked members of Council wishing to attend the Conference to advise the Executive Assistant.

QUALITY CLEANERS WATER BILL

Council reviewed an email from Quality Cleaners requesting relief for his excessive water/pollution bill. It was noted that staff left the valve on at the business which caused the water to run and result in a high water bill.

The Director of Corporate Services stated that she has responded to Quality Cleaners and advised that the water can not be written off because it does not meet the criteria in the water write off policy which states “There will be no water write-off authorizations unless there has been an error in the water meter reading or water billing. Council may also consider a partial write off for the sewer pollution charge only where it has been proven that the water has not entered the sanitary or storm sewer systems”.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Director of Corporate Services contact Quality Cleaners and offer to make arrangements for a flexible repayment plan over time for the water/pollution control charge bill.

Motion carried.

LETTER MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT

Council reviewed a letter from the Minister of Environment, Margaret Miller, advising of amendments to the Solid Waste Resource Management Regulations.

It was regularly moved and seconded to place the letter on file.

Motion carried.