

**TOWN OF NEW GLASGOW**  
**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**  
**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2019**

A Committee of the Whole meeting of New Glasgow Town Council was held on Monday, November 18, 2019 at 7:15 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Present were: Mayor Dicks; Deputy Mayor Guthro, Councillors Lewis; Fraser; Proudfoot and MacDonald. Also present were: Lisa MacDonald, CAO; Corey Smith, Director of Corporate Services; Earl MacKenzie, Town Engineer; Paula Irving, Acting Director of Community Economic Development; Derek Eisan, Director of Information Technology; Kelly Sloan, Executive Assistant; Rachel Mitchell, Climate Change Co-ordinator; Frank DeMont, Solicitor; Geralyn MacDonald and Gordon Michael, with Mentoring Plus and five students from NSCC who were attending the meeting as observers.

**AGENDA**

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

Motion carried.

**MATTERS FOR SENIOR STAFF**

**RECOMMENDATION GLOBAL COVENANT OF MAYORS**

Rachel Mitchell, Climate Change Co-ordinator, made a power point presentation and recommendation to Council on the Global Covenant of Mayors. She stated that the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy is an international alliance of cities and local governments with a shared long-term vision of promoting and supporting voluntary action to combat climate change and move to an inclusive, just, low emission, resilient society. The Town of New Glasgow was selected as one of 25 municipalities in

Canada to form the Global Covenant of Mayors' first Showcase Citizens Pilot program. She recommended that Council commit to the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy.

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

Motion carried.

Mayor Dicks stated that the Town was successful in receiving the funding for this program because of the quality of the application submitted by Rachel.

**RECOMMENDATION TEMPORARY BORROWING RESOLUTIONS – PLOW TRUCK AND FIRE TRUCK**

Council reviewed a memo from the Director of Corporate Services stating that the management letter of the external financial audit indicated a gap in the approval of funding process for a snowplow in 2018 (\$207,855) through Scotiabank. A municipality is required by Section 88(4) of the Municipal Government Act where the total cumulative long-term commitment exceeds \$100,000 to be approved by the Minister of Municipal Affairs in advance. He recommended that Council authorize borrowing (retroactive) not to exceed \$207,855 over terms not to exceed 5 years for the 2018 snowplow and authorize borrowing not to exceed \$696,149 over terms not to exceed 7 years for the 2019 Fire Truck.

Deputy Mayor Guthro asked if the funds were available to pay for these two items instead of borrowing the money which he assumed would cost more for the Town.

The Director of Corporate Services stated that the snowplow was previously approved by Council when the capital budget was approved. He stated in the future

there may be more reserves so the funds do not have to be borrowed by MFC. He suggested that this matter can be discussed at budget time.

Councillor Lewis stated that in the past the Town was red flagged in the Financial Condition Index as not having sufficient reserves.

The Director of Corporate Services stated that it is a balancing act.

Mayor Dicks stated that there is an acceptable amount of debt.

### **RECOMMENDATION PERMISSION TO TRAVEL – DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

Council reviewed a memo from the Director of Information Technology requesting permission to attend the SharePoint 2016/365 Site Administration Course Course in Toronto from December 16 to 20, 2019.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Director of Information be granted permission to attend the SharePoint 2016/365 Site Administration Course in Toronto from December 16 to 20, 2019.

Motion carried.

### **RECOMMENDATION WATER UTILITY CAPITAL SPENDING REDUCTION**

Council reviewed a memo from the Director of Corporate Services indicating changes in the Water Utility Capital budget. He recommended that the changes be approved and estimated capital spending for the Water utility in 2019-2020 be reduced from \$2,660,000 to approximately \$1,284,300.

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

Motion carried.

**RECOMMENDATION MUNICIPAL PARTNERSHIP WITH DALHOUSE COLLEGE OF CONTINUING EDUCATION – MENTORING PLUS**

Council reviewed a recommendation from the Director of Corporate Services recommending that the Town of New Glasgow participate as a collaborating organization with Dalhousie University, on behalf of the College of Continuing Education, as contemplated by the New Horizons for Seniors Program Pan-Canadian Projects Funding Agreement between Dalhousie University and Her majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, as represented by the Minister of Employment and Social Development and as further described in the Sub-Agreement to be executed by the Town and Dalhousie University.

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

Motion carried.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE – TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO regarding the Terms of Reference for the Accessibility Planning Committee. She recommended that the Terms of Reference be approved as presented and the three Committee positions be advertised in the News.

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

Motion carried.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **PCWCBAI UPDATE**

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO providing an update on the PCWCBAI Meeting held on October 28, 2019.

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

Motion carried.

### **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS**

Simply Cast – Councillor Guthro stated that he attended a presentation on Simply Cast at the recent NSFM Conference. He suggested that this software, which is a communication tool, would be beneficial for the Town of New Glasgow to communicate to its citizens and would cost less than \$1,000 per year.

It was agreed that he discuss this matter with the Director of Information Technology who will prepare a report for Council's consideration.

### **MEETING REQUEST TIR & COUNTY RE; SIDEWALK TO WELLNESS CENTRE**

Councillor Proudfoot stated that the lack of a sidewalk to the Pictou County Wellness Centre was one of the only complaints received after the Pinty's recent Grand Slam curling event. He stated that this area that requires a sidewalk may be in the County but our citizens are affected and we are part owner of the Wellness Centre. He suggested that Council request a meeting with TIR and the County to discuss this matter further.

Councillor Fraser stated that this is also an issue with the Rath Eastlink Community Centre and they have gone to great lengths to get this looked after.

Mayor Dicks stated that this matter is discussed frequently at the Mayors' and Warden's meetings but it is difficult when it is outside of our jurisdiction.

It was agreed to look into a meeting with the County and TIR regarding this matter if the County feels it would benefit their position.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **HERITAGE GAS LIMITED – RENEWAL OF MUNICIPAL OPERATING ACCESS**

#### **AGREEMENT**

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO recommending that Council approve the renewal for the New Glasgow Municipal Operating Access Agreement with Heritage Gas Limited for the period 2020-2024.

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

Motion carried.

### **N. S. MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS – 12 MONTHS NOTICE**

Council reviewed a copy of a letter from Minister Porter, Municipal Affairs and Housing, directed to NSFM giving notice of legislation and regulations that will have the effect of decreasing the revenue received by municipalities in Nova Scotia or increasing the required expenditures of municipalities in Nova Scotia.

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

Motion carried.

### **DECEMBER DOWNTOWN MEETING PARKING**

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO stating that it has been a long-standing tradition in Downtown New Glasgow to offer free parking at the meters during the month of December to encourage shoppers to visit our local shops and restaurants.

She recommended to provide metered parking by donation within the downtown core during the month of December and all proceeds received in the parking meters be donated to a charitable organization.

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

Motion carried.

It was agreed that the funds from the parking meters during the month of December be provided to the Pictou County Foodbank and the Pictou County Fuel Fund.