

TOWN OF NEW GLASGOW
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2020

A Committee of the Whole meeting of New Glasgow Town Council was held on Tuesday, February 4, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers. Present were: Mayor Dicks; Deputy Mayor Lewis; Councillor Guthro; Councillor Fraser; Councillor Dorrington; Councillor MacDonald and Councillor Proudfoot. Also present were: Lisa MacDonald, CAO; Earl MacKenzie, Town Engineer; Corey Smith, Director of Corporate Services; Paula Irving, Acting Director of Community Development; Kelly Sloan, Executive Assistant; Rachel Mitchell, Climate Change Co-ordinator; Frank DeMont, Solicitor; Julie Martin; Jennifer MacNeil-Noble and Chris Knowles.

Mayor Dicks noted the events held over the past few weeks: The Winter Carnivals were held at the Northend and Westside Community Centres which were well attended; she attended a Westville Town Council meeting where former Mayor Roger MacKay was recognized; she attended a REN LOC meeting where the closure of Northern Pulp and Transition Committee work was discussed; she attended the launch of African Heritage Month today at Glasgow Square which was well done with the largest attendance ever. She congratulated Councillor Dorrington on a job well done as master of ceremonies for the event and Glasgow Square staff for a great job setting up for the event; she also attended the “Walk Through Africville” event at the Museum of Industry. She noted that the Chill Out event is being held this weekend.

Councillor Proudfoot stated that he attended the soft opening of the River Run Café at the former Goodman building which is an initiative of Riverview Home. They will

be providing delivery options and an ice cream shop and their grand opening will be held within the month.

AGENDA

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

Motion carried.

MINUTES

It was regularly moved and seconded that the minutes of the meetings held on January 20, 2020 be approved as presented.

Motion carried.

PETITIONS/DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

PRESENTATION WHITE CANE WEEK

Julie Martin, Jennifer MacNeil-Noble and Chris Knowles made a presentation to Council regarding living with a visual impairment in recognition of White Cane Week and acknowledged the Town's support for the NSCAD Residency Studio Program for the visually impaired.

Mayor Dicks thanked Julie, Jennifer and Chris for their presentation.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

CLOSURE OF VIOLA'S WAY

Council reviewed a memo from the Town Engineer stating that on January 20, Council reviewed a letter from MacGillivray Property Ltd. requesting that Council close Viola's Way for vehicles which will allow MacGillivray's Property Ltd., Shenanigans and East Avenue Dining to implement patios and a performers stage. The Town Engineer supports the concept of making Viola's Way a pedestrian street known as a

Placemaking Initiative with the following provisions: the street right-of-way be retained by the Town; approval of any work, installation, lighting, street furniture etc. be approved by the Town and any costs associated with a business led project be borne by the business subject to approval from the Town; outdoor cafes design, construction and costs to be the responsibility of the abutting businesses; designs, dimensions, materials, etc. to be approved by the Town; the Town to be responsible for the overall design plan for Viola's Way incorporating ideas from the businesses and public; the design must allow for winter maintenance to adhere to the Town level of service policy and forthcoming Provincial accessibility standards and the project to accommodate for any loss of current "loading zones". He also recommended converting the dead-end of the former Forbes Street into a pedestrian area only with conditions which would improve the connectivity between the Farmers Market/free parking and the downtown businesses.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the two recommendations be approved.

Councillor Proudfoot asked if a traffic study has been completed at this location. A taxi driver told him that it would be an issue for taxi drivers if this street were closed.

The Town Engineer stated that it is not a heavily used street but he could do traffic count. He stated that less than 5% of the traffic traveling along Archimedes Street turn onto Viola's Way.

Councillor Guthro stated that it could be an inconvenience to employees who leave the Aliant parking lot on Archimedes Street if this street were closed.

Councillor Fraser asked if there were any legal implications if the street were closed for this purpose.

The Solicitor stated that it could be conceived as favouritism by other restaurant owners.

The Town Engineer stated that this proposal is for placemaking, where we want people to gather.

The Solicitor suggested that the businesses involved in this proposal enter into a license agreement with the Town.

The motion passed by a vote of six in favour and one nay vote cast by Councillor Guthro.

WESTSIDE COMMUNITY CENTRE ICE SCHEDULE

Council reviewed a memo from the Acting Director of Community Development stating that she recommends the development and installation of new signage that clearly outlines the designated times for open skates and hockey play along with the guidelines of usage of the outdoor ice surfaces at all community centres that install an outdoor ice surface. The Board of Directors of each community centre will be responsible for the installation and maintenance of the signage on annual basis.

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

Councillor Proudfoot stated that he doesn't feel this recommendation addresses his concerns – access for all “non-hockey playing people”. Women face a barrier, they aren't getting access to the ice because of the hockey players. He questions how the signs would be enforced, there is a need for supervision. He noted two times in the past few weeks that were supposed to be for skating only but hockey was being played.

He moved that up to \$1,000 be provided for supervision at the Westside Community Centre during scheduled skating hours. Councillor Guthro seconded the motion.

After considerable discussion the original motion was carried as per the recommendation.

Councillor MacDonald stated that this matter has been discussed by the volunteers that serve as the Board of Directors for the Westside Community Centre and their decision was to not provide supervision.

Councillor Lewis stated that there are no issues of this nature at the Northend Outdoor Rink.

Mayor Dicks stated that she was on the Board 30 years ago and this issue was dealt with at that time. There were volunteers to supervise the skating but it was difficult getting some of the skaters to adhere to rules of no hockey during skating hours and some of the volunteers didn't want to confront these people. The hours required for supervision were inconsistent – it could be required at the last minute. She does not think Council telling the Board how to run the rink will be looked at favourably by the Board.

Councillor Dorrington stated that at the Ward 1 Recreation Centre the Board is only responsible for the building and operations, not the outside areas of the building, which is the Town's responsibility.

Councillor Lewis stated that it is probably too late to get supervision for this season but suggested that there be a discussion with the Boards at the Westside

Community Centre and Northend Recreation Centre before Town budget discussion regarding next season.

Councillor Proudfoot withdrew his motion.

VIOLA'S PLACE SOCIETY – OUTSTANDING TAXES AND ASSESSMENT

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO stating that a letter was received from Viola's Place Society requesting an allowance towards the property taxation for 189 Marsh Street. The property was originally a church and as such was classified as exempt for property tax purposes. It was subsequently purchased by Viola's Place Society and used as a shelter for the homeless. When the property was sold and the change of use occurred, the property became taxable and the assessment was not appealed at the time. The Town has been working with Property Valuation Services to adjust the assessment values to be more in line with the purchase price. The adjustment is now in place for the 2020 assessment year.

The CAO recommended that a retro-adjustment recognition be completed on the assessment values of the five properties owned by Viola's Place Society.

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

Motion carried.

BYLAWS WITH S.O.T.

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO regarding the Public Places Bylaw and the Animal Bylaw that are being updated to include the Summary Offence Ticket process. The Public Places Bylaw will proceed to first reading at the February 18 Council Meeting.

It was agreed to place the memo on file.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PCWCBAI UPDATE

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO regarding the Pictou County Wellness Centre Building Authority Inc. meeting held on January 27.

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

Motion carried.

MOTIONS AND NOTICES OF MOTIONS

PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION 2020

Councillor Fraser gave notice that at the meeting to be held on Tuesday, February 18, 2020, Council intends to pass a motion to adopt policy pursuant to Section 69 of the Municipal Government Act, that a property tax exemption in the amount of \$350.00 for the taxation year 2020-2021 be granted to a person whose property is assessed as taxable property in the Town of New Glasgow and is occupied by that person as his/her principal residence and whose total income for the calendar year 2019 from all sources, including the income of a spouse or partner and other family members residing at the same property but excluding an allowance or pension paid pursuant to the War Veterans Allowance Act, is equal or less than \$20,867.00.

NEW BUSINESS

LETTER N. S. MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS – LAND-USE PLANNING

Council reviewed a letter from Minister Porter, Municipal Affairs and Housing, stating that Bill 58 regarding minimum planning requirements was proclaimed on December 2, 2019. The legislative and regulatory changes establish a framework for

mandatory planning, minimum planning requirements and engagement with abutting municipalities.

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

Motion carried.

VIOLA'S PLACE SOCIETY FUNDING REQUEST

Council read a letter from Viola's Place Society requesting financial assistance.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the request be referred to 2020-2021 budget discussion.

Motion carried.

CHIGNECTO EAST REGIONAL SCIENCE FAIR

Council reviewed a letter from the Chignecto East Regional Science Fair requesting financial assistance. The CAO stated that there are funds for this purpose in the current budget.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the request be granted.

Motion carried.

BLACK EDUCATOR'S SOCIETY

Council reviewed a letter from the Black Educator's Society requesting financial assistance for their annual Spelling Bee. The CAO recommended that the Spelling Bee be allocated \$200, the same amount as the Chignecto East Regional Science Fair from the current budget.

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

Motion carried.

CENTURY SAW AND MARINE LIMITED

Council reviewed a letter from Century Saw and Marine Limited regarding the feral cats that are living in their compound and causing damage to their equipment.

It was noted that cat houses and feeding stations have been placed on Town property behind the Farmer's Market dome without permission from the Town.

It was recommended that an order be issued for the removal of the structure housing the cats which is on Town property behind the dome.

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

Motion carried.

APPOINTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

It was regularly moved and seconded that Frank MacFarlane be appointed a Development Officer for the Town of New Glasgow.

Motion carried.

Councillor Proudfoot left the meeting.