

TOWN OF NEW GLASGOW
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

MAY 5, 2020

A Committee of the Whole meeting was held virtually on Tuesday, May 5, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. using the Microsoft Teams platform. Present were: Mayor Dicks; Deputy Mayor Lewis; Councillor Dorrington; Councillor Guthro; Councillor Fraser; Councillor Proudfoot and Councillor MacDonald. Also present were: Lisa MacDonald, CAO; Earl MacKenzie, Town Engineer; Derek Eisan, Director of Information Technology; Ross White, Director of Fire, Inspection and Emergency Services; Thiv Tharma, Director of Community Development; Corey Smith, Director of Corporate Services; Kelly Sloan, Executive Assistant and Frank DeMont, Solicitor.

Council observed a moment of silence in memory of the crew of the RCAF helicopter that crashed off Greece. Captain Brenden MacDonald, son of Peter and Lynn MacDonald of New Glasgow, was one of the crew members aboard the helicopter. Mayor Dicks thanked Councillor Fraser for the remarks he prepared in memory of Brenden and noted that a plant garden was sent to Brenden's parents from the Town. A plant was also sent to Dan and Sue Jenkins in memory of their daughter Alanna who was killed in the mass shooting in Portapique.

AGENDA

Mayor Dicks requested that item 4b. be moved to "in camera".

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

Motion carried.

MINUTES

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

Motion carried.

MATTERS FOR SENIOR STAFF

DOWNTOWN LIGHTING SURVEY

Council reviewed a memo from the Town Engineer which included a summary report of the Lighting Survey performed in March 2020 for Provost and Archimedes Streets. The survey identifies 13 areas of concern where, subjectively, staff feel current lighting is low. The estimated total to improve these lighting areas is \$37,200 and can be covered within the proposed operating and maintenance budget for fiscal 2020-21.

Councillor Fraser asked if the survey included the former “Goodman” parking lot, now known as the Glasgow Square parking lot.

The Town Engineer stated that the lighting was improved in the Glasgow Square parking lot a couple of years ago and this survey includes Provost and Archimedes Streets.

Councillor MacDonald stated that special lighting may be required if cameras are installed in the downtown area.

The Director of Information Technology stated that this will be part of the discussion with the Police Department regarding the coordination of cameras and required lighting.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the report be received.

Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

COVID-19 UPDATE

The CAO presented an update on the PC REMO and NS EMO efforts related to the Covid-19 situation. The Provincial State of Emergency has been extended to May 17 at noon. Provincial and Municipal Parks were reopened on Friday, May 1 at 3pm with the announcement during the Provincial webcast and there was no advance notice to the municipalities from the Province. There were 6 cases today for a total of 991 cases in Nova Scotia with 652 recovered, 6 hospitalized 2 in ICU, 41 deaths with 35 of those being in Northwood, 11 long term care (licensed and non-licensed) facilities have been affected with Covid, 245 residents with 160 still active and 113 staff with 49 still active.

The landfills have received approval for the variance from the Nova Scotia Department of Environment with conditions. There will be no changes to residential pick-up, still required to separate and clear communication is required to the residents. Pictou County Solid Waste is taking the lead on the communication.

REMO has connected with Pictou Landing First Nations and their communications officer is now participating in the REMO meetings. The hand sanitizer donated by Northern Pulp has been distributed to the long-term care facilities, Viola's Place and Roots for Youth. Signage has been installed in the senior's complexes reiterating the social distancing message. The second provincial order for PPE is due to arrive on Friday to the logistics location for distribution. There are no municipal resources required at this time by any of the municipal units in Pictou County. The lifting of the Ship Hector has been delayed until June. The Pictou County Foodbank has seen a decline in clients and Tearmann House does not have anyone living at the house for

the first time in twenty years. The NS Department of Municipal Affairs has not provided clear direction on the matter of public hearings. The Town has developed a plan to move forward with the Public Hearing for the two development agreement applications on May 19 and the public advertising has been arranged. The NS Department of Municipal Affairs has been advised accordingly. The Police have received 190 Covid related complaint calls to date. As well, she and the Mayor will be participating in another NSFM virtual meeting on Wednesday night.

Councillor Proudfoot provided an update on the Riverview Home situation and stated that he is proud to say there are no Covid cases in the home. There were 19 residents tested which were all negative.

Councillor Fraser asked if the calls to the Police are from people reporting others for doing things that are not permitted under the Covid restrictions.

The CAO stated that there are a variety of complaint calls related to Covid.

Councillor Fraser mentioned the fire on Forbes Street recently that destroyed an apartment building that housed 12 people.

The Director of Fire, Inspection and Emergency Services stated that the Red Cross was contacted, and CHAD provided a bus for the twelve people who lived in the building who were transported to the Travel Lodge. Former Fire Chief Dort has a license to operate a bus, so he drove the bus. He advised that he has contacted the property owner and his insurance company who is in the process of having the property cleaned up.

Councillor MacDonald thanked the Fire Department for their great work suggested that the Mayor send a letter to CHAD and former Fire Chief Dort on behalf of Council thanking them for their assistance the night of the fire.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the report be received.

Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

REN UPDATE

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO which included a copy of the REN Liaison and Oversight Committee Report as provided to the LOC Committee, the Business Plan for 2019-2020, financials for the previous fiscal as well as the list of current projects.

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

Motion carried.

MENTORING PLUS UPDATE

Councillor Dorrington requested permission to provide an update on the recent Mentoring Plus Meeting.

Council agreed.

Councillor Dorrington stated that the first meeting of the Mentoring Plus Team was held virtually with representatives from the Towns of Kentville, Truro and New Glasgow. They are working with Dalhousie Continuing Education to provide Mentoring Plus through a virtual platform.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the report be received.

Motion carried.

MOTIONS AND NOTICES OF MOTIONS

NOTICE OF MOTION – PROPERTY TAX FINANCING POLICY

Notice of Motion was given that its meeting to be held on May 19, 2020 Council will make a motion to adopt the Property Tax Financing Policy.

The CAO stated that the final version of the policy has not been received from the NSFM and AMANS but it will be forwarded to Council once it is received. She noted that the Pictou County CAOs met last week to discuss the program and work to ensure consistency in the program delivery for the municipal units.

PROCLAMATIONS

WORLD LUPUS DAY

Councillor Guthro read a proclamation proclaiming May 10 as World Lupus Day in the Town of New Glasgow.

Mayor Dicks proclaimed May 10 as World Lupus Day in the Town of New Glasgow.

WORLD FALUN DAFA DAY

Councillor Dorrington read a proclamation proclaiming May 13 as World Falun Dafa Day in the Town of New Glasgow.

Mayor Dicks proclaimed May 13 as World Falun Dafa Day in the Town of New Glasgow.

NEW BUSINESS

LETTER ANNE MACPHEE RE FLEA MARKET

Council reviewed a letter from Anne MacPhee regarding the uncleanliness of the Flea Market which the Town sub-leases. She stated that the bathrooms are unsanitary,

and she questioned if the vendors selling food have a food license and it should be cleaned up.

Councillor Proudfoot declared a conflict but advised that he can provide some background if Council wishes.

Mayor Dicks asked the Solicitor if this is permitted.,

The Solicitor stated that Councillor Proudfoot can provide background and if discussion begin he should refrain from participating.

Councillor Proudfoot stated that he is only responsible for financial records at the Flea Market, he reports to Howard Ross and Jim Corbett with Big Eagle Investments. He did ask St. F.X. to do a marketing study on the Flea Market who interviewed, vendors, customers, manager, owners, etc. but the report has been delayed due to the pandemic. He believes they will be recommending changes and the launch a new look in the fall which could result in the elimination of some of the vendors. He noted that the washrooms are used by Town staff through the week and on Sunday Flea Market staff clean the washrooms from 7 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and at the end of the market from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. He also noted that Food Inspectors visit the market 3 or 4 times a year and have not had any concerns.

It was agreed that the letter from Ms. MacPhee be acknowledged and forwarded to Big Eagle Investments for their comments.

Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

It was regularly moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.,

Motion carried.