

TOWN OF NEW GLASGOW
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2020

A Committee of the Whole meeting of New Glasgow Town Council was held on Monday, August 17, 2020 at 5:40 p.m. using the Microsoft Teams platform. Present were: Mayor Dicks; Deputy Mayor Lewis, Councillors Dorrington; Guthro, Fraser, Proudfoot, and MacDonald. Also present were: Lisa MacDonald, CAO; Earl MacKenzie, Town Engineer; Derek Eisan, Director of Information Technology; Corey Smith, Director of Corporate Services; Thiv Tharma, Director of Community Development; Ross White, Director of Fire, Inspection and Emergency Services; Kelly Sloan, Executive Assistant; Jeffrey Turnbull, Development Officer-Planner; Sarah Santos, Community Engagement Coordinator; Frank DeMont, Solicitor and Heather Brimicombe from The Advocate.

AGENDA

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

Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

POLITICAL SIGNS POLICY

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO which provided information as a follow-up to the Committee of the Whole meeting of June 2, 2020 and the discussion regarding political signage. At that meeting Council requested a survey be carried out with the other municipalities in Nova Scotia regarding their election signage policies however we did not receive any policies. She provided recent media articles regarding municipal election signage within the Towns of Kentville and Yarmouth and information from the

HRM website on their election signage as well as their bylaw for Licensing of Temporary Signs.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the memo be placed on file and all council members agreed that no changes at this time to the Town's Political Signage Policy.

Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PCWCBAI UPDATE

Council reviewed a report prepared by the CAO which provided an update on the Pictou County Wellness Centre Building Authority Inc. meeting held on July 28.

Councillor Proudfoot asked if there was any update on the proposed sidewalk under the overpass near the Wellness Centre.

The CAO stated that she does not have an update from the County however the Town Engineer was going to reach out to Greg Chisholm of NS TIR regarding this matter.

The Town Engineer stated that he does not have an update this evening but will have an update for the next meeting.

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

Motion carried.

MEMO INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO stating that five submissions were received for the advertised positions on the Inclusive Communities Committee. She

recommended the appointment of the following individuals to this Committee: Erika Sloan, Keri Shepherdson, Ian Smith, and Crystal States.

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

Motion carried.

QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION POLICY

Councillor Dorrington stated that the Inclusive Communities Committee was discussing preparing an Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Policy for the Committee. She suggested that the Town as a whole, should have an Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Policy.

Mayor Dicks updated Council on discussions she and the CAO have had with Wayn Hamilton from the Nova Scotia Office of African Affairs regarding the recent events in our community, the Black Lives Matter movement and creating meaningful engagement with our African Nova Scotian community. He has suggested that a first step would be to begin with a community consultation. He has suggestions for people that could facilitate the sessions with the community.

It was regularly moved and seconded that a request be made to the Nova Scotia Office of African Affairs for assistance in a community consultation process to build a better connection with the African Nova Scotian community as well as provide meaningful input to the future Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policy for the Town.

Motion carried.

ESTABLISH VOLUNTEER GROUP COUNCIL SET UP

Councillor Proudfoot suggested that a volunteer group be set up to study the current Council structure. He suggested a way to save costs would be to have one Councillor for each ward. He also suggested that for diversity one additional seat could be designated for an African Nova Scotian Councillor.

It was regularly moved and seconded that a volunteer group be set up to study the current Council structure and recommend any changes deemed necessary.

The CAO stated that she does not believe the Municipal Government Act nor Elections Act enable having designated seats on Municipal Council and she will confirm this with the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing. She also noted that every 8 years the Municipal Government Act dictates that every municipal unit in Nova Scotia must do a Municipal Boundary and Number of Councillors Review which is due to be completed again in 2022 for decision by the NS UARB. A new Census should be available before that review is completed to ensure the most accurate population data required for the NS UARB requirements.

The CAO stated that she could provide information on the Municipal Boundary and Number of Councillors Review process at the next meeting.

Councillor Proudfoot agreed to table the motion until the next meeting.

GEESE ON RIVERFRONT

Councillor Lewis stated that he was shown pictures of 3 or 4 dozen geese on the Glasgow Square parking lot which can become a problem.

The Town Engineer stated that he has not seen any geese at this location.

The CAO stated that the Director of Community Development has researched this issue. She also noted that she was at the Trenton Park today for sod turning event and it is covered with geese feces.

The Director of Community Development stated that the migration pattern of the geese is different than most birds. When you deter one group of geese it opens the area up for another group. He will share the guide he obtained with the Town Engineer.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion carried.