

**TOWN OF NEW GLASGOW**  
**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

**OCTOBER 6, 2020**

A Committee of the Whole meeting was held on Tuesday, October 6, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Present were: Mayor Dicks; Deputy Mayor Lewis; Councillor Dorrington; Councillor Fraser and Councillor MacDonald. Also present were: Lisa MacDonald, CAO; Earl MacKenzie, Town Engineer; Corey Smith, Director of Corporate Services; Kelly Sloan, Executive Assistant; Rachel Mitchell, Climate Change Coordinator; Sarah Santos, Community Engagement Co-ordinator; Frank DeMont Solicitor; and Dawn Peters, Ward 2 candidate for the upcoming municipal election. Present using the Microsoft Teams platform were: Councillor Proudfoot; Derek Eisan, Director of Information Technology; Ross White, Director of Fire, Inspection and Emergency Services and Thiv Tharma, Director of Community Development.

Mayor Dicks noted some events that took place over the past few weeks: Safe Harbour's Ride for Refuge which was a huge success, she thanked Kailee Brennan, Thiv Tharma and Sarah Santos for their hard work on this event; she also thanked Sarah Santos who spearheaded a welcome basket for the newest Syrian family who arrived in New Glasgow the first of October; a book launch was held at Glasgow Square for Gerard Veldhoven's new book entitled "A Passion for Equality – My Personal Journey". She thanked Thiv, Sarah and Brett for the set up of this event. She also noted that a former New Glasgow resident Len Paris has written a book entitled "Jim Crow – Also Lived Here" that is available for purchase online.

Councillor Dorrington also noted that the painting of Black Lives Matter on a portion of Provost Street was well attended and was led by the youth.

Councillor Proudfoot stated that the Riverview Home has hired a new CEO, Keith Spencer.

## **AGENDA**

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 September 14, 2020 be approved as presented.

Motion carried.

Mayor Dicks noted that at a previous meeting Council discussed the closure of Addiction Services Centre in Pictou – she noted that this service is now located at the Aberdeen Regional Hospital, third floor.

## **PETITIONS/DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

### **PETITION – TREE REMOVAL REQUEST**

Council reviewed a petition from residents of Townsend Avenue, Helene Street and McNeil Street requesting the removal of a large tree on the lane between McNeil Street and Helene Street which they feel is unsafe.

The Engineering and Public Works Department looked into this matter and determined that the tree is healthy; however, it is located on the Town's right of way and should be removed as it is very large and could cause significant damage if it were to come down in a weather event. GPF will remove the trees at a cost of \$8,000.

The Town Engineer stated that there is also a maple tree next to the cottonwood tree that will also be removed, and the project should be completed within the next few weeks. He also noted there is significant private property preparation required due to encroachment in the right of way.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the petition be accepted, and the removal of the trees be completed.

Motion carried.

## **MATTERS FOR SENIOR STAFF**

### **RENAMING MARTIN DRIVE**

Council reviewed a recommendation from the Town Engineer regarding the request from Wayne Desmond Jr. that the Town consider changing the name of the street from “Martin Drive” to “Reddick Lane”. Staff have reviewed the Public Properties Commemorative Naming Policy and determined that the name “Martin Drive” contravenes the principles outlined in the Policy and therefore recommends to Council to change the street name “Martin Drive” to “Reddick Lane”.

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

Motion carried.

### **RENAMING WALKER STREET**

Council reviewed a memo from the Director of Community Development regarding the request to rename “Walker Street” to honor Dr. Carrie Best. Investigation determined that Walker Street was named after Reverend George Walker, a Scottish minister who led the Primitive Church, an off shoot of James Church originally located at Temperance Hall (former Roseland Theatre). As Walker Street is named after Reverend Walker it would be best to

find another way to honor Dr. Best. This information has been passed on to the citizen who made the request for the renaming who has been in touch with Dr. Best's family to determine the best way to move forward.

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

Motion carried.

### **AUDITOR'S MANAGEMENT LETTER**

Council reviewed a recommendation from the Director of Corporate Services stating that as part of the audit process, the auditors provide a management letter to the Town identifying areas for recommended changes. He recommended the following procedures to address the areas of concern: Investment in New Scotland Business Development Incorporated – the investment in NSBDI to be reviewed on a continuous basis and the March 31, 2021 financial statements to reflect any impairment to the investment. Fair Market Value of Capital Assets – the Town's tangible capital asset schedules be reviewed in detail, appraisals be completed for assets requiring potential adjustments in value and the March 31, 2021 financial statements reflect any value adjustments required.

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

Motion carried.

### **PENSION CUSTODIAN**

Council reviewed a memo from the Director of Corporate Services stating that on July 21 the Town was advised that RBC Investor & Treasury Services planned an increase to their current safekeeping and custodian fees for the Town's pension. The current fee is \$1,250 a month or \$15,000 per annum which they intend to increase to approximately \$2,500 per month or \$30,000 per annum. Morneau Shepell was asked to perform a custodian review on our behalf, subsequently Morneau created a RFP document, the responses were received

and analyzed by Morneau and they recommend Canadian Western Trust to be the pension custodian.

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

Motion carried.

### **DRAFT P.A.C.E. BYLAW**

Council reviewed a memo from the Climate Change Steering Committee recommending that Council adopt a Property Assessed Clean Energy (P.A.C.E.) Program Bylaw. This bylaw would be a financing mechanism that allows municipalities to offer the option for homeowners to finance home energy improvements through payments that are attached to their property tax bill.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the P.A.C.E. Bylaw proceed to first reading.

Motion carried.

### **CORPORATE ANTI-IDLING POLICY**

Council reviewed a memo from the Climate Change Steering Committee recommending that Council adopt a Corporate Anti-idling Policy. The Policy will establish the Town's commitment to eliminating unnecessary idling across Town operations including emergency services and law enforcement.

The Solicitor suggested an amendment on Page 1 of the Policy to state that "this policy shall apply to third parties undertaking work on behalf of the Town of New Glasgow". This clause would be included in RFP documents.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Anti-Idling Policy be approved as amended.

Motion carried.

## **CORPORATE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN**

The Climate Change Coordinator presented a power point of the Corporate Climate Action Plan. As part of New Glasgow's commitment to the Partners for Climate Protection Program the Town is required to complete a Local Climate Action Plan. The Corporate Plan is a component of the larger community strategy for greenhouse gas emission reductions. The Corporate Plan outlines the actions the Town will make to meet our corporate target of 30% reduction from 2018 levels by 2030.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Corporate Climate Action Plan be approved as presented.

Motion carried.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **PICTOU COUNTY TRANSIT AUTHORITY**

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO stating that the capital for the bus was approved and the funding will be provided from the Province of Nova Scotia. The new projected timeline to start the operational pilot is expected to be April 1, 2021 or earlier depending on the bus being ready. She also included the Section 60 Municipal Corporation documents and articles of incorporation for the Pictou County Transit Authority for Council's approval.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Section 60 Municipal Corporation documents and articles of incorporation for the Pictou County Transit Authority be approved.

Motion carried.

## **NOISE BYLAW**

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO stating that the Town is continuing the review of bylaws that require updating and incorporation of the Summary Offence Ticket (S.O.T.) process which will make it easier for enforcement by the New Glasgow Regional Police and Bylaw Enforcement Officer. The Noise Bylaw has been rewritten and will need to be reviewed within the various department as well as legal review by our Solicitor. First reading will be scheduled for November 16, 2020.

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

Motion carried.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **PCSSA AGM AND REGULAR BOARD MEETING UPDATE**

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO regarding the Pictou County Shared Services Authority AGM and regular Board meeting held on September 21.

Councillor Fraser asked if we are the only municipality that has flow meters.

The CAO stated that New Glasgow has all of its flow meters installed and it is imperative for all other units to get their flow meters installed so the user pay formula can be in line with the original intent of the PCSSA Municipal Corporation Agreement.

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

Motion carried.

### **PCWCBAI BOARD MEETING UPDATE**

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO regarding the Pictou County Wellness Centre meeting held on September 28.

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

Motion carried.

## **MAYORS AND WARDEN MEETING UPDATE**

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO regarding the Mayors and Warden meeting held on September 21.

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

Motion carried.

## **GLEN HAVEN MANOR BOARD REPRESENTATIVE APPOINTMENT**

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO requesting Council to formally appoint Councillor Dorrington as the Town's representative on the Glen Haven Manor Board. A vote had been taken via email and the motion is required to formalize the agreement of Council.

It was regularly moved and seconded that Council Dorrington be appointed the Town's representative on the Glen Haven Manor Board.

Motion carried.

## **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS**

### **CROSSWALK AT ABERCROMBIE ROAD/DALCROMBIE DRIVE**

Councillor MacDonald requested that the Traffic Authority have a look at the crosswalk at Abercrombie Road and Dalcrombie Drive. It is used by a lot of seniors who live in the vicinity and there have been several incidents where the vehicles do not stop at the crosswalk for pedestrians. He suggested that it would be a good location for a lighting system to be installed like the lights at the intersection of Abercrombie Road and Willow Avenue.

The Town Engineer stated that he and the Traffic Authority will investigate the best option to improve safety at this crosswalk location.

## **DEMOLITION OF PROPERTY AT 269 HIGH ST.**

Councillor Fraser requested permission to add an item to the agenda. Council granted permission.

Councillor Fraser stated that he was contacted by a neighbour regarding the property at 269 High Street that Council ordered for demolition several few months ago. He asked for a report on the status of the demolition.

The CAO stated that the Town is working through the process to have the demolition carried out by a contractor.

## **PROCLAMATIONS**

### **WASTE REDUCTION WEEK**

Mayor Dicks read a proclamation proclaiming October 19-25 as Waste Reduction Week in New Glasgow.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **LETTER ELWIN HEMPHILL**

Council reviewed a letter from Elwin Hemphill who resides at High Crest Place regarding the noise caused by cars without mufflers travelling along Provost Street and requested that the Police look into ticketing these people that are driving these cars causing the noise issue.

The CAO stated that the new Noise Bylaw that Council has under consideration will enable enforcement for muffler noise complaints from vehicles and this will be communicated back to Mr. Hemphill.

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

Motion carried.

## **LETTER MONICA AND GERALD PUNKE**

Council reviewed a letter from Monica and Gerald Punke regarding the ongoing and random discharging of fireworks within the Town, usually late into the evening, causing distress, especially to animals. They requested Council to review or instate fireworks regulations requiring all public fireworks displays to be licensed, restricting private use to an agreed upon number of traditional dates, restricting the maximum permitted decibels and ensuring there is some means of enforcement of said bylaw.

The CAO stated that a portion of the Noise Bylaw will address fireworks and when the Fire Prevention Bylaw is reviewed and updated these concerns regarding fireworks will be considered.

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

Motion carried.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Motion carried.