

TOWN OF NEW GLASGOW
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2020

A Committee of the Whole meeting of New Glasgow Town Council was held on Monday, November 16, 2020 at 6:20 p.m. Present were: Mayor Dicks; Councillor Dorrington; Councillor Borden; Councillor Fraser; Councillor Peters; Councillor MacDonald and Councillor Ed-Haddad. Also present were: Lisa MacDonald, CAO; Earl MacKenzie, Town Engineer; Corey Smith, Director of Corporate Services; Kelly Sloan, Executive Assistant; Geralyn MacDonald, Mentoring Plus Assistant Director; Rachel Mitchell, Climate Change Coordinator; Patrick Wiggin, Executive Director, Federation of N. S. Woodlot Owners; Frank DeMont Solicitor; Bob Curley as observers. Present using the Microsoft Teams platform were: Thiv Tharma, Director of Community Development; Ross White, Fire Chief; Sarah Santos, Community Engagement Co-ordinator and Dr. Jamie Stephen, Torchlight Bioresources for a portion of the meeting.

AGENDA

Mayor Dicks added Watershed Land Purchase recommendation to the agenda. It was regularly moved and seconded that the agenda be approved as amended. Motion carried.

MATTERS FOR SENIOR STAFF

DISTRICT ENERGY SYSTEM FEASIBILITY STUDY FUNDING APPLICATION

Patrick Wiggin, Executive Director of Federation of Nova Scotia Woodlot Owners and Dr. Jamie Stephen, Torchlight Bioresources made a presentation to Council on a proposed District Energy Project in New Glasgow. The Climate Change Co-ordinator

recommended that the Town of New Glasgow partner with the Federation of N. S. Woodlot owners on an application to the Nova Scotia Forestry Innovation Transition Trust for a feasibility study on a district energy system for New Glasgow.

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

Motion carried.

Mayor Dicks thanked Mr. Wiggin and Dr. Stephen for their presentation.

REQUEST TO CAPITALIZE TRAIL PROJECTS

Council reviewed a memo from the Town Engineer recommending that the two large enhancement projects completed on the Pioneer Trail and Samson Trail that total \$90,471.00 be capitalized instead of coming out of the operating budget.

Councillor MacDonald suggested to the Director of Corporate Services that a line be added to the 2021 capital budget for unforeseen capital maintenance that may be required on the trails.

The Director of Corporate Services stated that there are accounting rules around capital improvements in assets that must be followed.

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

Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

UPDATE ON THE DEMOLITION ORDERS

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO providing an update on the demolition orders for 279 High Street and 172 Fraser Street. The Town is proceeding with demolition of 279 High Street with Verhagen Demolition Limited at a cost of \$6,400 plus HST and 172 Fraser Street with Dexter Construction for a cost of \$37,800 plus HST.

It was noted that the house at 279 High Street was demolished today.

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

Motion carried.

DALCROMBIE DRIVE & ABERCROMBIE ROAD INTERSECTION CROSSWALK

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO stating that further to Councillor MacDonald's mention of safety concerns for the crosswalk at the intersection of Dalcrombie Drive and Abercrombie Road at a previous meeting, the Town Engineer and Traffic Authority made the decision to install a set of solar RRFBs similar to the East River Road crosswalk location at the Federal building.

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

Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MEMO – MENTORING PLUS PROJECT

Council reviewed the Mentoring Plus Strategy Quarterly Report prepared by the Mentoring Plus Assistant Director, Geralyn MacDonald.

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

Motion carried.

MEMO PCSSA

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO regarding the meeting of the Pictou County Shared Services Authority held on October 13, 2020.

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

Motion carried.

MEMO PCWCBAI

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO regarding the Pictou County Wellness Centre Building Authority Inc. meeting held on October 26, 2020.

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

Motion carried.

MEMO REMO COVID ACTION DEBRIEF MEETING

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO regarding the REMO Covid Action Debrief Meeting held on meeting held on October 29, 2020.

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

Motion carried.

COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

Council reviewed the recommended appointments for Committees of Council for the remainder of 2020 and 2021.

Councillor Fraser pointed out that his name appears on the Business Advisory Committee on one list but not on the other

It was regularly moved and seconded that the 2020/2021 Committees of Council be approved as amended to include Councillor Fraser on the Business Advisory Committee.

Motion carried.

QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

TARTAN FIELD – DOG PARK FENCING

Councillor El-Haddad stated that he has been approached by citizens regarding having the dog park fenced in as is the case in the other towns in Pictou County. They are doing fundraising for this project and are asking if the Town can provide assistance.

The CAO stated that this group should send a proposal to Council that will be referred to the Community Development Advisory Committee for a recommendation to Council.

ENERGY DRINKS AND YOUTH

Councillor Borden stated that he was approached by the principal of the New Glasgow Academy and the Assistant Manager of Wilson's Gas Bar regarding youth drinking energy drinks. They are leaving school at lunch time and purchasing the drinks. Recently one student was taken by ambulance from the school to the hospital because of drinking 4 – 5 energy drinks. They are asking if there is anything the Town can do about this safety concern for the students.

The CAO stated that she reached to a Nova Scotia Health - Public Health representative regarding this concern who indicated that cannot lobby the government.

It was agreed that this matter be referred to the NSFM, the Mayors and Warden's meeting, the Municipal Alcohol Committee and request Constable MacDonald to speak to the students regarding the harms of drinking energy drinks under the DARE program.

GARBAGE CANS IN DOWNTOWN AND SAMSON TRAIL

Councillor MacDonald stated that there is a need for additional garbage cans with source separation options in Downtown New Glasgow and on the Trail systems.

The Town Engineer stated that it is difficult when emptying the garbage/compost/recycling receptacles where sorting is not carried out properly.

It was agreed that this matter be referred to staff to investigate receptacle options to consider for next fiscal's budget and a strategy for maintain garbage/recycling/compost receptacles throughout Town.

NEW BUSINESS

LETTER JOHN TOMLIK

Council reviewed a letter from John Tomlik regarding his four properties that have outstanding taxes and are scheduled for tax sale. He requested that he be granted permission to extend his tax payments to July 2021.

It was regularly moved and seconded that this matter be deferred to the December 1 Council meeting for a recommendation from the Director of Corporate Services.

Motion carried.

LIBRARY FUNDING REQUEST

Council reviewed a letter from Greg Hayward, Library Manager, stating that they are preparing to move into stage 3 of the Library re-opening plan. They plan on creating safe social spaces within the library and to do this they require updated furniture. They are requesting the Town of New Glasgow provide \$5,000 to assist with the purchase of the furnishings. They are also adjusting their hours to be open 7 days a week from September to May and to facilitate Monday openings the custodian is requesting an increase in salary of \$100 a month to cover the associated work and costs. They are requesting that the Town fund the extra \$100 a month for the custodian.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the request for the capital contribution for Library furniture be referred to the 2021/2022 budget discussions and the \$100 per month for the custodian be approved.

Motion carried.

LETTER ARLEEN PARIS

Councillor Borden declared a conflict.

Council reviewed a letter from Arleen Paris suggesting that the Town of New Glasgow have an event to celebrate Order of Canada member Walter Borden after the pandemic is cleared up.

The CAO stated that next year is the Black Gala Homecoming which would be an excellent opportunity to work with the Committee to plan an event celebrating Walter Borden.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Town establish a citizen working committee to work with the Black Gala Homecoming Committee to plan an event to celebrate Walter Borden.

Motion carried.

RECOMMENDATION DECEMBER PARKING

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

It was regularly moved and seconded that free parking by donation be approved for the month of December with the proceeds going to Viola's Place.

Motion carried.

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING DATES FOR 2021

Council reviewed the Council and Committee of the Whole Meeting schedule dates for 2021.

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

Motion carried.

DEPUTY MAYOR POLICY

Council reviewed the Deputy Mayor Policy.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the appointment of the Deputy Mayor Policy should be revised to be aligned with the election – November to October each year as opposed to the calendar year.

Motion carried.

Mayor Dicks appointed Councillor El-Haddad Deputy Mayor for the period November 1, 2020 to October 31, 2021.