

TOWN OF NEW GLASGOW
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
FEBRUARY 16, 2021

A Committee of the Whole meeting of New Glasgow Town Council was held on Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. using the Microsoft Teams platform. Present were: Mayor Dicks; Deputy Mayor El-Haddad, Councillors Dorrington; Borden, Fraser, Peters, and MacDonald. Also present were: Lisa MacDonald, CAO; Corey Smith, Director of Corporate Services; Earl MacKenzie, Town Engineer; Derek Eisan, Director of Information Technology; Thiv Tharma, Director of Community Development; Ross White, Director of Fire, Inspection and Emergency Services; Kelly Sloan, Executive Assistant; Rachel Mitchell, Climate Change Co-ordinator; Sarah Santos, Community Engagement Co-ordinator and Frank DeMont, Solicitor

AGENDA

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

Motion carried.

MATTERS FOR SENIOR STAFF

APPROVAL FOR TERM LOANS 2020-2021

Council reviewed a memo from the Director of Corporate Services recommending Council approve the borrowing not to exceed \$125,000 over a term not to exceed 5 years for Information Technology initiatives and projects approved in the Capital Budget 2020-2021.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

REMO MEMO

Council reviewed a memo prepared by the CAO regarding the meeting of REMO for the COVID IMT held on February 3, 2021 and the extreme heat tabletop exercise on February 10, 2021.

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

Motion carried.

QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

CARMICHAEL STEWART HOUSE MUSEUM

Councillor Borden stated that he attended a meeting of the Pictou County Historical Society at their request. They are unhappy with the amount of funding the Town provides for upgrades to the Carmichael Stewart House Museum which is owned by the Town. Councillor Borden stated that he suggested ways that the Society could raise funds for the Museum.

The CAO stated that the Town has made a substantial investment in the Museum somewhere in the amount of \$140,000 in capital which included a full electrical upgrade. The Town tried to rent out the apartment upstairs in the Museum which would be revenue for the Museum, but the Society has artifacts stored in the apartment so did not want to rent it out.

Mayor Dicks also noted that the Town has held several events and assisted with the planning of several events at the Museum including the Mayor's Teas held each summer.

SNOW REMOVAL POLICY

Deputy Mayor El-Haddad stated that he felt the snow removal during the last storm was great with the exception of the sidewalks to the A. G. Baillie School not being cleared before school started the next morning. He asked if the sidewalk to the school can be done first.

The Town Engineer referred to the Snow and Ice Control Management Policy that was included in the Council package which is followed by the snow removal crew. The recent storm was a major storm event and the Town crews were out continuously until the snow was cleared. He stated that the main arterial roads must be cleared before the sidewalks.

Deputy Mayor El-Haddad suggested that in cases where the sidewalk to the school is not plowed maybe a police car can visit the area to assist with the safety of the children getting to school.

The CAO stated that this should not be a problem.

Councillor Dorrington asked the Town Engineer if the Vale Road is considered a priority road. The Town Engineer indicated that it is. She also asked about Brother Street Extension if it considered a hill according to the policy. The Town Engineer stated that it is.

NEW BUSINESS

PICTOU COUNTY GROUND SEARCH & RESCUE FUNDING REQUEST

Council reviewed a letter from Pictou County Volunteer Ground Search and Rescue requesting financial assistance.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the request be considered during the 2021-2022 budget deliberations.

Motion carried.

LITTLE HARBOUR PICKLEBALL COURTS – CAPITAL FUNDING REQUEST

Council reviewed a letter from the Little Harbour Pickleball Team stating that they are working towards having three outside pickleball courts installed at the Little Harbour Community Centre. They are requesting the Town of New Glasgow to provide funding to support this effort as the courts will be utilized by people throughout Pictou County.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the request be considered during the 2021-2022 budget deliberations.

Motion carried.

LETTER PROVINCE – RESTART AGREEMENT

Council reviewed a letter from the Department of Municipal Affairs stating that the Town will receive \$504,134 under the Safe Restart Agreement to be used to address increased operating costs resulting from a reduction in revenue due to Covid; continue to implement social distancing and infection prevention and control protocols required to operate facilities, public spaces and effectively deliver services to citizens; support safe transit operations and innovative solutions required to adjust to a modified capacity and acquire additional PPE .

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.