

TOWN OF NEW GLASGOW
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2021

A Committee of the Whole meeting of New Glasgow Town Council was held on Monday, November 15, 2021, at 6:40 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Present were: Mayor Dicks; Deputy Mayor El-Haddad, Councillors Dorrington, Borden, Fraser, Peters, and MacDonald. Also present were: Lisa MacDonald, CAO; Earl MacKenzie, Town Engineer; Thiv Tharma, Director of Community Development; Corey Smith, Director of Corporate Services; Kelly Sloan, Executive Assistant and Frank DeMont, Solicitor. Rachel Mitchell, Sustainability and Climate Change Manager was present using the Microsoft Teams platform.

MATTERS FOR SENIOR STAFF

DOWNTOWN FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM RECOMMENDATION

Council reviewed a memo from the Director of Community Development stating that the Town approved a 20-year Downtown Revitalization Master Plan in March 2009. The first phase of the plan was implemented and involved several projects which totaled 4.3 M. ACOA contributed \$2.5 M and the province contributed \$500K. Many businesses have been impacted by Covid-19 and continued support for small businesses is warranted. In June 2021 the Director of Community Development completed a funding application to the Province of N. S. Beautification and Streetscaping Program requesting \$20,000 to support a new Downtown Façade Improvement Program. The funding was secured on the condition that the Town contribute matching funds. He recommended the allocation of \$20,000 in the current

operating budget to implement a renewed façade improvement program in the downtown core.

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

Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MEMO SHIP HECTOR SOCIETY & TOWN OF PICTOU

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO stating that the Mayors, Warden and CAO's were invited to the Hector Quay for a presentation and tour by the Ship Hector Society and the Town of Pictou on their plans for the 250th anniversary of the arrival of the Ship Hector. A copy of the presentation was included.

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

Motion carried.

MEMO PCWCBAI UPDATE

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO regarding the Pictou County Wellness Centre Building Authority Inc. meeting held on November 1, 2021.

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

Motion carried.

QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

FUTURE SIDEWALK FOR PARKVIEW & MEADOWLARK AREA

Councillor MacDonald asked if sidewalks for the Parkview and Meadowlark are included on the list for future sidewalks.

The Town Engineer stated that each year a condition assessment and warrant system are carried out to determine the priority for sidewalk construction and repairs.

It was regularly moved and seconded that this area be considered during the annual condition assessment and warrant system carried out by the Public Works Department.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

RIVERVIEW HOME CORPORATION REQUEST

Council reviewed a recommendation from the CAO regarding a request from the Riverview Home Corporation for an allowance towards the property tax on their recent purchase of 476 Terrace Street. She recommended that the property at 476 Terrace Street, owned by Riverview Home Corporation, be provided with a 50% tax exemption up to \$1,000 in the Partial Tax Exemption Bylaw while operating as a group home for individuals with intellectual and/or physical disabilities, acquired brain injuries and long-term mental illness.

Councillor Peters stated that she feels this would set a precedent as there are other group homes in New Glasgow that don't receive this tax exemption.

Councillor Dorrington stated that a precedent has already been set with Roots for Youth and Viola's Place that receive an exemption.

The motion was defeated by a vote of 3 in favour and 4 nay votes cast by Deputy Mayor El-Haddad and Councillors MacDonald, Peters, and Borden.

APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO stating that further to the Deputy Mayor policy, which was amended in November 2020, the Deputy Mayor role will change to Ward 1 and the Council member with the most citizen votes from the last election, Councillor Dorrington, shall be appointed Deputy Mayor.

It was regularly moved and seconded that Councillor Dorrington be appointed the Deputy Mayor for the term ending October 31, 2022.

Motion carried.

Mayor Dicks thanked Councillor El-Haddad for serving as Deputy Mayor for the past year and welcomed Deputy Mayor Dorrington to this position.

TOWN OF PICTOU AND DECOSTE CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATING CONTEST

Council reviewed a letter from the deCoste Centre for Arts and Creativity stating that they, along with the Town of Pictou, will be hosting a Christmas Tree Decorating contest on November 30 and invited New Glasgow to participate. Each Town/municipality is invited to select a group of individuals from their Councils and/or community organizations to decorate their respective tree on the day or evening of November 30 at the deCoste.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Town participate in this event.

Motion carried.