

**TOWN OF NEW GLASGOW**  
**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**  
**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2023**

A Committee of the Whole meeting of New Glasgow Town Council was held on Tuesday, February 21, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers.

Present were: Mayor Dicks; Deputy Mayor Peters; Councillors Dorrington, Borden, Fraser, El-Haddad, and MacDonald. Also present were: Lisa MacDonald, CAO; Earl MacKenzie, Town Engineer; Ross White, Director of Fire, Inspection and Emergency Services; Peter Douthwright, Director of Community Development; Rachel Mitchell, Climate Change and Sustainability Manager; Kelly Sloan, Executive Assistant; Frank DeMont, Solicitor and Geralyn MacDonald, Mentoring Plus. Present using Microsoft Teams was Corey Smith, Director of Corporate Services.

**AGENDA**

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

Motion carried.

**MATTERS FOR SENIOR STAFF**

**ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGERS – TEMPORARY HOURLY RATE FOR CHARGING**

Council reviewed a memo from the Climate Change and Sustainability Manager stating that the electric vehicle chargers will be open to the public this month. She recommended to Council the approval of a temporary \$2 per hour rate to park and charge electric vehicles at the Town's EV Charging stations.

Councillor MacDonald if other areas were canvassed to determine what they charge.

The Climate Change and Sustainability Manager stated that they are obtaining this information currently and will bring a recommendation to Council in March regarding a permanent fee.

Councillor Dorrington stated that it is important that this is relayed in the messaging explaining why the fee may change after it is considered by Council in March.

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

Motion carried.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **CAMERON AVE./TERRACE ST. SIDEWALKS**

Council reviewed information that was presented to Council in October 2021 from the Town Engineer regarding proposed capital sidewalks on Cameron Avenue – Terrace St. to Carmichael Drive and Terrace Street – Terrace Heights Drive to Cameron Ave. A survey had been completed with the residents of the area regarding the installation of sidewalks in this area and the majority did not want sidewalks.

Councillor El-Haddad stated that the biggest concern of the residents is Carmichael St. to Terrace St. which did have support when the survey was taken.

The Town Engineer stated that after the budget is approved he will come back with a full report on the proposed capital sidewalk plan related to fiscal 2023-2024 for Council's review.

### **MUTUAL AID FIRE SERVICE AND NEW GLASGOW WATER**

The CAO stated that many rural fire departments access our water to fill up their trucks at the fire station. This is not part of the mutual agreement. This bulk water

station was supposed to be closed to other users back in 2016 and accounts would be set up to get bulk water at the Public Works Department but this didn't happen. The Town is required to account for our water as per the NS Utility and Review Board regulations. Recently a letter was sent to the other fire departments operating within the County that the bulk water from the Fire Department would discontinue and they would have to set up accounts and pay for water fill ups from the bulk water station at the Public Works Department. It was then determined that the fill ups at the Public Works bulk water station take longer so it was decided that if a fire department is responding to a fire they would be permitted to fill up at the fire department but fill ups for non-fire related reasons would take place at Public Works bulk water station and they would have to pay for the water per cubic meter. She also presented a report indicating Mutual Aid Assistance calls from July 2010 to January 12, 2023. There were 456 mutual aid calls during this period with 331 for the rescue Truck, 80 for the Engine Truck and 45 for the Ladder Truck. During the same period of time the Town of New Glasgow requested assistance 24 times. Seventy one percent of the calls for the Ladder Truck calls, 75% of the Engine Truck calls and 98% of the Rescue Truck calls were for rural departments. This resulted in 6,646 paid hourly calls for members to responses outside of the Town of New Glasgow.

The CAO for the County indicated that the Mutual Aid Agreement was with each individual rural fire department and not the Municipality of the County of Pictou so they had no desire to look into an updated agreement.

Councillor MacDonald gave notice that at the next meeting Council will consider giving 60 days' notice to opt out of the Mutual Aid Agreement.

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

Motion carried.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **MENTORING PLUS QUARTERLY REPORT**

Council reviewed the Mentoring Plus Strategy Quarterly Report.

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

Motion carried.

### **MAYORS AND WARDEN COMMITTEE MEETING**

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO regarding the Mayors and Warden Committee meeting held on January 17.

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

Motion carried.

### **COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES**

Council reviewed the revised and recommended Council Committee appointments for 2023.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Council Committee appointments be approved as presented.

Motion carried.

## **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS**

### **UPDATE DOWNTOWN CAMERA PROJECT**

Councillor MacDonald requested an update on the Downtown Camera Project. The Downtown businesses were asking about it.

The CAO stated that she will request an update from the Director of Information Technology for the next Council meeting.

### **LIGHTING GEORGE STREET BRIDGE**

Councillor MacDonald stated that there are many new options for lighting for the George Street bridge. He would like staff to look at the options available. He has a vision for the bridge to be lit up with decorative lighting.

The CAO stated that this item will be referred to the Town Engineer for available options re; lighting during budget discussions.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **FCM ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO regarding the upcoming FCM Conference in Toronto from May 25-28. The Town Travel Policy states that the Mayor and 2 Councillors will be permitted to attend the conference.

Deputy Mayor Peters and Councillor MacDonald requested permission to attend the FCM Conference.

It was regularly moved and seconded that Deputy Mayor Peters and Councillor MacDonald be granted permission to attend the FCM Conference.

Motion carried.

### **MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF PICTOU – BLUE ACRES SIDEWALKS**

Council reviewed a letter from Warden Parker of the Municipality of the County of Pictou stating that County Council passed a motion to request a limited financial

commitment to help them move forward with a new sidewalk project stretching from the bridge over the East River in Stellarton to the bridge across from the Irving Station.

The Town Engineer stated that the Municipality of the County of Pictou has a responsibility under the Accessibility Act to provide accessible safe pedestrian travel.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the request be denied.

Motion carried.

### **GRANT REQUEST –RYAN’S CASE FOR SMILES**

Council reviewed a request from Ryan’s Case for Smiles requesting financial assistance.

It was regularly moved and seconded that this matter be considered during 2023-2024 budget deliberations.

Motion carried.

### **GRANT REQUEST - HIGHLAND DISTRICT SOCCER ASSOCIATION**

Council reviewed a request from the Highland District Soccer Association requesting financial assistance.

The CAO stated that Town staff does not recommend any changes in our current policy related to capital and operating funding for non-owned facilities however Council can consider this request during 2023-2024 budget deliberations.

It was regularly moved and seconded that this matter be considered during 2023-2024 budget deliberations.

Motion carried.

**GRANT REQUEST – PICTOU COUNTY VOLUNTEER GROUND SEARCH & RESCUE**

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

It was regularly moved and seconded that this matter be considered during 2023-2024 budget deliberations.

Motion carried.

**GRANT REQUEST – SPCA NEW BUILDING**

Council reviewed a letter from the SPCA requesting a capital request for their new building that is being built in Pictou County, the Albion Business Park. It is recommended that this request be referred to the Deed Transfer Tax Trust for further consideration.

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

Motion carried.

**LETTER HEALTHY PICTOU COUNTY – RENEWAL REQUEST**

Council reviewed a letter from Healthy Pictou County requesting Council to recommit to a second 5-year funding model in the amount of \$10,850 annually.

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

Motion carried.

**LETTER MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF COLCHESTER BILL 225**

Council reviewed a letter from Mayor Blair from the Municipality of Colchester sent to the Minister of the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing expressing concern regarding the Province's introduction of Bill 225 that grants ministerial authority

to override lawfully established bylaws of Halifax Regional Municipality which is a dangerous precedent that threatens the democratic and consultative processes currently in place.

It was regularly moved and seconded to place the letter on file.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Motion carried.