

**TOWN OF NEW GLASGOW**  
**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**  
**MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 2024**

A Committee of the Whole meeting of New Glasgow Town Council was held on Monday, January 15, 2024, at 7:45 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Present were: Mayor Dicks; Deputy Mayor MacDonald; Councillors Dorrington, Borden, Peters, Fraser, and El-Haddad. Also present were: Lisa MacDonald, CAO; Earl MacKenzie, Director of Engineering and Public Works; Ross White, Director of Fire, Inspection and Emergency Services; Peter Douthwright, Director of Community Development; Rebecca Lewis-MacNeil, Director Human Resources; Kim Livingston, Director of Corporate Services; Prasad Patil, Communications and Engagement Manager; Police Chief Chisholm; Deputy Police Chief Leil, Kelly Sloan, Executive Assistant; and Audrey Buchanan, Assistant Director of Engineering. Present using Microsoft Teams was Solicitor DeMont.

**AGENDA**

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

Motion carried.

**MATTERS FOR SENIOR STAFF**

**CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL PROGRAM BYLAW**

Council reviewed a memo from the Director of Engineering and Public Works stating that as part of the N. S. Environment and Climate Change approval to operate a Water Treatment Plant Facility requirements, each utility must implement a cross connection control program which requires customers to install an approved backflow

prevention device to prevent the potential for potable water to be contaminated by non-potable water. He recommended that Council adopt the Cross Connection Control Bylaw as provided which would be implemented in a 3-year phased approach to allow facilities time to budget and install the required devices.

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

Councillor Fraser asked how the bylaw would impact residents.

The Director of Engineering and Public Works stated that the bylaw affects all users, however, high-risk users will be looked at first.

Councillor Dorrington asked about older homes that don't currently have a backflow prevention device.

The Director of Engineering and Public Works stated that they would eventually have to install a backflow prevention device in their home. He also noted that the \$1,000 yearly cost noted in the recommendation would be borne by the Water Utility for tracking all accounts, issue letters for testing and setup of new accounts.

The Assistant Director of Engineering advised the cost for a backflow prevention device for a residential household would be between \$500-\$1,000.

Councillor Peters stated that she felt the wording was too strong in the bylaw when it refers to "Enforcement" of the bylaw.

It was agreed that this feedback can be incorporated into the bylaw.

Solicitor DeMont stated that the Department of Environment and Climate Change has mandated this so a bylaw has to be adopted.

Motion carried.

## **FOUR DAY WORK WEEK**

Council reviewed a memo from the Director of Human Resources recommending that Council approve the change in the current Town Office Operating Hours of Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. allowing for a 4-day work week for the Town employees who operate outside of a collective agreement. This will enable the town office to be open one additional hour each day for customers and studies have shown that a 4-day work week has many benefits for staff.

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

Councillor Peters stated that there seems to be a discrepancy in the hours worked.

The Director of Human Resources stated that she will look into that. She also explained the reasoning behind the Flexible Work Agreement that each participating employee will be required to sign.

Motion carried.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT D/A COMPLIANCE – 244 TEMPERANCE ST.**

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO regarding an update on the compliance for the Development agreement with J. Martin for 244 Temperance Street. The Development Officer worked with our Solicitor on addressing the non-compliance and outstanding work and after speaking with Mr. Martin's Solicitor she recommended extending the timeline for construction of the shed and fence until April 2024. Mr. Martin has signed an amended settlement agreement to this effect.

It was regularly moved and seconded to accept the amended settlement agreement for 244 Temperance Street.

Motion carried.

### **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS**

#### **HOMELESSNESS MEETINGS UPDATE**

Councillor El-Haddad requested an update on the Homelessness Meeting held recently at Summer Street Industries.

Mayor Dicks and Councillor Fraser provided an update on the meeting held on January 8 at Summer Street Industries regarding the Homelessness situation which was very well attended with 12 organizations attending.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Motion carried.