

**TOWN OF NEW GLASGOW**  
**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**  
**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2024**

A Committee of the Whole meeting of New Glasgow Town Council was held on Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at 6:10 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 of Human Resources; Kim Livingston, Director of Corporate Services; Prasad Patil, Communications and Engagement Manager; Deputy Police Chief Leil, Kelly Sloan, Executive Assistant; Audrey Buchanan, Assistant Director of Engineering and Rohan Mishra, Environment and Sustainability Lead;. 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**

**CONFERENCE – DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING & PUBLIC WORKS**

Council reviewed a memo from the Director of Engineering and Public Works requesting permission to attend the Accessibility Professional Network Conference in Vancouver on March 27-28.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Director of Engineering and Public Works be granted permission to attend the Accessibility Professional Network Conference in Vancouver on March 27-28.

Motion carried.

### **TARTAN FIELD REVITALIZATION**

Council reviewed a memo from the Active Living Manager that provided an update on the Tartal Field Revitalization. Preliminary work to enhance the space was completed in the fall of 2023 with the re-establishment of the entrance pathway on Walker Street, construction of a new Pioneer Trail access pathway at the south side of the property and thinning of vegetation at the south side of the property to increase sightlines and feelings of safety for park users. The next step is to apply for a Province of Nova Scotia Recreation Facility Development Grant that would partially fund the next phase of upgrades to the space which is to formalize the off-leash dog park on the west side of the property. The projected cost of the next phase of the project is estimated at \$133,000. A municipal contribution of \$44,400 would be required to accept the Provincial funding if the application is approved.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the memo as presented.

Motion carried.

### **RENAMING MICHAEL THIEY AWARD**

Council reviewed a memo from the Director of Community Development stating that the Community Development Advisory Committee is recommending that the Michael Thiey Award be renamed the Social Justice Award which more accurately captures what the recipient is being recognized for.

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

Motion carried.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **PETITION RE; LONG-TERM CARE FACILITY**

Council reviewed a petition submitted by Brandy Borden, Kieshia Desmond, Angela Borden and Wayne Desmond petitioning the Town of New Glasgow and the Province of Nova Scotia to not build a Long-Term Care Facility on the property of 487 Brother Street.

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

Motion carried.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **PCSSA UPDATE**

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO regarding the Pictou County Shared Services Meeting held on February 12, 2024.

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

Deputy Mayor MacDonald asked about the flow meters.

Solicitor DeMont recommended that this matter be discussed in-camera.

Council agreed.

Motion carried.

#### **MAYORS AND WARDEN UPDATE**

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO regarding the Mayors and Warden meeting held on February 12, 2024.

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

Motion carried.

### **PICTOU COUNTY PARTNERSHIP LOC UPDATE**

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO regarding a meeting of the Pictou County Partnership Liaison and Oversight Committee held on January 23, 2024.

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

Motion carried.

### **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS**

#### **UPDATE FROM NOVA SCOTIA FORESTRY AGM**

Deputy Mayor MacDonald provided an update on his presentation on the Town's District Energy project at the Nova Scotia Forestry AGM which was held at White Point Beach Lodge.

#### **REQUEST FOR COMMUNITY CONSULTATION - ANS COMMUNITY**

Councillor Peters suggested that the Town build a way forward in changing the process when making decisions on issues impacting the African Nova Scotia community. She stated there should be community consultation on issues affecting the ANS community instead of making decisions without having ample time to work with the community.

It was regularly moved and seconded to move forward with developing a policy, bylaw, or standard practice on how we can do things differently in a systematic way to consult with the ANS community prior to making decisions on land or matters affecting the ANS community.

Mayor Dicks stated that there is a process that has to be followed under the Municipal Government Act with respect to land development. The matter of the Glen Haven Manor site never had a chance to follow that process.

Councillor Dorrington asked how we would include other ANS residents who do not live in Ward 1.

Councillor El-Haddad stated that he is in favour in principle however also noted there are ANS residents on the westside and we shouldn't be placing borders on the ANS community. We have to sit down with the ANS residents and build trust. We didn't even get to the consultation process with the proposed site on Brother St. What about the former Acadia Street school matter – would you have a policy for that also?

Councillor Peters stated that lots of people feel that the Ward 1 ANS community is their safe place.

Councillor Fraser stated that he finds this challenging as the Town went beyond what was necessary in this matter and took the initiative to meet with the Ward 1 Centre Board as a courtesy before public consultation began, which blew up in our face. They have no trust in us. The Town has an Inclusive Communities Committee with the purpose of having discussions and collaborating on efforts that could be taken to better work with and engage with minority groups.

Councillor Dorrington stated that at the meeting with the Ward 1 Board they said we don't want your process – it's not our process. She also noted that it was never stated that the Brother Street site was a done deal.

Mayor Dicks stated that in Municipal Government you elect Councillors to represent you in your community and that's how your voice is heard. A boundary

review is conducted every 8 years and Council has always been very cognizant of the ANS community when making a decision on the boundaries. She was here to witness many opportunities with the ANS community and the consultation process was excellent.

Councillor Peters stated that this is not a criticism of our Council – that’s what we voted on.

The CAO stated that on December 18 Council voted on moving forward with consultation only.

Councillor Dorrington stated that it was mid to late October when the Glen Haven New Build Committee received information on the sites. The sites were being analyzed in August and September and people from the community saw the surveyors in that area.

Deputy Mayor MacDonald stated that surveys would have been completed on all 7 potential sites.

Councillor Fraser stated that since he has been on Council there have been many projects for the ANS community – the Africentric Park, Viola’s Way, the Southend rubber playground which was moved to Ward 1. There have been all kinds of positives. We engage all minorities. We also have the Office of N. S. African Affairs located in New Glasgow.

Councillor Peters stated, knowing our history, should we have consulted before we did.

(Frank’s Motion – Council direct staff to consider developing a policy for pre consultation process for land or issues impacting equity deserving communities.)

The motion passed by a vote of 5 in favour and 2 nay votes cast by Councillor Fraser and Deputy Mayor MacDonald.

Councillor El-Haddad stated that he abstained from the vote because he doesn't understand the motion. He noted that we are dividing our community.

The Solicitor clarified that where Councillor El-Haddad abstained from the vote it would result in 3 in favour, 2 nay votes cast by Councillor Fraser and Deputy Mayor MacDonald and 1 abstention by Councilor El-Haddad. Mayor Dicks voted nay.

Councillor Borden stated that education is key too. Some of the residents wouldn't know about the Municipal Government Act.

Mayor Dicks stated that it is the responsibility of folks to learn what they are talking about.

Motion defeated.

Mayor Dicks stated that we have to be careful of who we are reacting to and she does not feel disconnected from the black community as a result of this matter. We had a process for democracy but weren't allowed to do it and we did not cause harm or trauma.

Councillor El-Haddad stated that he did receive a call from 5 senior ladies of that community who were upset that they didn't get their chance to speak on the matter.

Deputy Mayor MacDonald stated that the Director of Community Development and staff are working hard to bridge the gap.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **FCM 2024 CONFERENCE**

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO stating that the FCM Conference is scheduled from June 6-9 in Calgary. The Town's Travel Expense Policy allows the Mayor and 2 Councillors to attend the conference.

Deputy Mayor MacDonald requested permission to attend the conference.

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

Motion carried.

### **PICTOU COUNTY VOLUNTEER GROUND SEARCH & RESCUE FUNDING**

#### **REQUEST**

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

It was regularly moved and seconded that the request be referred to 2024-2025 budget consideration.

Motion carried.

### **ENGAGE N. S. 2024 QUALITY OF LIFE SURVEY**

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO recommending that the Town of New Glasgow financially support the Engage Nova Scotia 2024-2025 Quality of Life Survey at a cost of \$4,735.50.

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

Motion carried.