

TOWN OF NEW GLASGOW
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2024

A Committee of the Whole meeting of New Glasgow Town Council was held on Monday, June 17, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Present were: Mayor Dicks; Deputy Mayor MacDonald, Councillors Dorrington, Peters, Fraser, and El-Haddad. Also present were: Lisa MacDonald, CAO; Earl MacKenzie, Director of Engineering and Public Works; Audrey Buchanan, Assistance Director of Engineering and Public Works; Peter Douthwright, Senior Director of Operations and Strategic Initiatives; Michelle Ward, Director of Community Development; Rebecca Lewis-MacNeil, Director of Human Resources; Kim Livingston, Director of Corporate Services; Prasad Patil, Communications and Engagement Manager; Ross White, Director of Fire, Inspection and Emergency Services; Alison Tait, Deputy Clerk; Ryan Leil, Deputy Police Chief; and Solicitor Demont. Absent from the meeting was Councillor Borden, Police Chief Chisholm, and Derek Eisan, Director of Information Technology.

Mayor Dicks welcomed Alison to her new role as Deputy Clerk.

AGENDA

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

Motion carried.

MATTERS FOR SENIOR STAFF

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – ACTIVE LIVING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Council reviewed a recommendation submitted by the Director of Community Development recommending the integration of the Active Living Advisory Committee into the Community Development Advisory Committee.

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

Motion carried.

NS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS COST SHARE APPLICATION 2024

Council reviewed a recommendation submitted by Assistant Director of Engineering and Public Works recommending that Council endorse the proposed multi-year Cost Shared Capital Paving Program application with the Nova Scotia Department of Public Works.

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

Motion carried.

ATLANTIC RECREATION AND FACILITIES CONFERENCE

Council reviewed a memo submitted by the Active Living Manager who attended the Atlantic Recreation & Facilities Conference in Fredericton, NB from Wednesday, May 29 until Friday, May 31.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the memo be received as information.

Motion carried.

BUDGET 2024-2025 PRE-APPROVAL PROJECTS

Council reviewed a recommendation submitted by the Assistant Director of Engineering & Public Works recommending the pre-approval of the list of Public Works and Water Utility critical projects to ensure work can be tendered and completed in

fiscal 2024/25.

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

Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

TRAFFIC AUTHORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Council reviewed a recommendation report submitted by Traffic Authority with the following recommendations related to the traffic issues raised by citizens:

GEORGE STREET – CROSSWALK REQUEST

A crosswalk was not recommended due to the high traffic volumes or speed signs as the Deputy Chief indicated that speed is not an issue based on the data.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the recommendation be received as information and Council requested a report with the speed data for the next meeting.

Motion carried.

LOVAT CRESCENT – CHILDREN PLAYING SIGNAGE REQUEST

Based on the Provincial and National trends and data in relation to these signs, the Traffic Authority does not support the installation. It was recommended that situational driver related occurrences be reported to police for investigation and follow up including but not limited to driver awareness education, public safety awareness communications, campaigns, data collection and targeted enforcement initiatives.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the recommendation be approved.
Motion carried. Nay votes recorded for Councillor El-Haddad and Councillor Peters.

INTERSECTION OF HERBERT ST and ELM ST – STOP SIGN REQUEST

Based on a site review by the Traffic Authority, it was recommended that the intersection become a four-way stop with the erection of two stop signs West and East of Elm at Herbert Street making this a four-way stop.

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

Motion carried.

MEADOWLARK, WREN and CHESTNUTT

A review of the configuration of the Meadowlark, Wren, and Chestnutt area has been requested. The Traffic Authority recommended a referral to Engineering for examination of the area and options for possible reconfiguration to the traditional intersection removing curvature as well as completing a traffic count for the area.

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

Motion carried.

MEMO – DEMOLITION CONTRACT AWARD

Council reviewed a memo from Senior Director of Operations and Strategic Initiatives to formalize the award of the Demolition Contract to East Coast Excavation for the properties located on 192, 194, 208 Marsh Street and 258, 264 James Street.

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

Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MEMO - PICTOU COUNTY SHARED SERVICES AUTHORITY UPDATE

Council reviewed a memo from the Senior Director of Operations and Strategic Initiatives on the Pictou County Transit Authority meeting held on June 4, 2024.

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

Motion carried.

MEMO – PCSSA AND BUDGET 2024 TO 2025 UPDATE

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO regarding the PCSSA with the approved PCSSA Budget for the 2024 to 2025 fiscal year.

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

Motion carried.

MEMO - MAYORS AND WARDEN MEETING UPDATE

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO regarding the Mayors and Warden meeting held on May 21, 2024.

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

Motion carried.

QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

CAN WE HAVE BETTER COMMUNICATION WITH RESIDENTS

Councillor El-Haddad raised the importance of communication with residents that needs to be proactive and mitigate the risk of misinformation which fuels mistrust with residents. It was agreed that the Town should develop additional tools to communicate with different methods to residents and an overall goal to improve proactive communications.

SALVATION ARMY – NEEDLES

Councillor Fraser met with Salvation Army Major Daniel Roode about his concerns

related to the homelessness issue impacting our downtown as they are finding needles on the front doorstep of the Salvation Army. Deputy Chief Leil committed to speaking with Major Roode about his concerns.

Deputy Chief Leil indicated that they are working on a public communication piece about needle disposal and risk mitigation. Some Council members felt it was important to hold a community consultation and include public health as well as Northern Healthy Connections as the issues with homelessness and needles in public spaces is severely impacting the community.

NEW BUSINESS

NSFM EMAIL – PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA TWELVE MONTH NOTICE LETTER

Council reviewed an email from NSFM regarding Province of Nova Scotia twelve month notice letter.

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

Motion carried.

EMAIL JUBILEE – EXEMPTION TO SMOKING BYLAW/SITE PLAN 2024

Council reviewed an email from Janine Linthorne, Co-Chair and Harold MacLeod, Site Director requesting an exemption from the non-smoking bylaw for the Jubilee Weekend of August 2-4, 2024.

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

Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion carried.