

## **Council Brief – Monday, October 15, 2024**

### **Petitions/Delegations/Presentations**

#### **Presentations**

**Presentation by NS Public Health** – Members of the Nova Scotia Health Pictou County division presented on Public Health & Healthy Communities. The presentation talked about their three pillars of work: Health Protection and Promotion, Early Years, and Healthy Communities. The presentation focused on the components of Healthy Communities and the tools that they have developed to support data-driven decisions to positively impact communities at large.

#### **Long Service Awards**

Mayor Dicks and Council were pleased to present the Federal Police Exemplary Service Medals from the Governor General of Canada and expressed their gratitude to the following members for their dedicated years of service:

Sgt. Kelly Moore-Reid – 30 years total, 15 years with New Glasgow Regional Police

Cst. David Fulton – 30 years, 16 years with New Glasgow Regional Police

D/Sgt. Jason MacKinnon – 20 years with New Glasgow Regional Police

Sgt. Darryl Paris – 30 with New Glasgow Regional Police

Sgt. Claire Corkum-Timmons – 20 years total, 13 years with New Glasgow Regional Police

Chief Ryan Leil – 20 years with New Glasgow Regional Police

Additionally, Mayor Nancy Dicks and Councillor Clyde Fraser were presented with Certificates of Recognition from the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities for their years of service.

Mayor Dicks has served two terms as Mayor in addition to one term as a Councillor for Ward Three. Councillor Fraser has served five consecutive terms as a Councillor for Ward 2. Throughout their tenure, both Mayor Dicks and Councillor Fraser have also served on multiple committees and boards throughout the Town and region of Pictou County.

#### **Proclamations**

##### **Waste Reduction Week – October 13 – 19, 2024**

The Town of New Glasgow is committed to conserving resources, protecting the environment, and educating the community and acknowledges October 13-19 as Waste Reduction Week.



## **Circular Economy Month – October 2024**

The Town of New Glasgow recognized October as the Circular Economy Month and has a circular economy roadmap which supports reducing, reusing, and recycling in our workplace.

## **International Day of Pregnancy & Infant Loss Awareness Day – October 15, 2024**

October 15 is recognized worldwide and in other regions of Canada as Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Day, to symbolize our support of Nova Scotia's Bill 179, Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Act. The Town supports the need to develop a greater awareness and understanding of the causes of pregnancy and infant loss so we can improve the healthcare provided for pregnant mothers and their babies.

## **Workplace Safety Day – October 26, 2024**

The Town of New Glasgow officially proclaims October 26, 2024, as Workplace Safety Day and dedicates this day in honour of Michael Bonvie as a way to remember Michael and to symbolize our ongoing commitment to a future where workplace accidents are a thing of the past. Michael Bonvie, an employee of the Town of New Glasgow, died because of a preventable work site accident on October 26, 2006. He was a devoted son, a loving father, a caring husband, a loyal friend, and a good family person who deserved to return home to his family at the end of the workday.

## **National Veteran's Week – November 5 – 11, 2024**

The Town of New Glasgow joins communities across Canada in observing Veteran's Week, from November 5 to 11, to honour the dedication, courage, and sacrifice of the brave individuals who have served and continue to serve in the Canadian Armed Forces. The Town of New Glasgow is committed to ensuring that the sacrifices of our veterans are never forgotten and that younger generations understand the historical and present-day impact of military service on our nation.

## **Viola Desmond Day – November 8, 2024**

Each year throughout the province November 8th shall be kept and observed under the name of Viola Desmond Day. Viola Desmond was an African Nova Scotian civil rights activist and highly successful businesswoman who has come to be a historical icon in Canada and around the world. On November 8, 1946, Viola Desmond was refused admittance to general seating in a theatre because of her colour. As a direct result of Mrs. Desmond taking a stand against this discrimination, laws allowing segregation practices were repealed.



### **Transgender Week – November 13 – 19, 2024**

Transgender Awareness Week is a time to raise visibility for transgender people and to address the issues members of this community continue to face, including discrimination, misunderstanding, and lack of representation. The Town of New Glasgow stands in solidarity with the transgender and gender-diverse community, recognizing the unique challenges, resilience, and contributions of transgender individuals locally and globally.

### **Diabetes Awareness Month & World Diabetes Day – November 14, 2024**

The Town Acknowledges the Month of November as Diabetes Awareness Month, in addition to World Diabetes Day, which takes place on November 14<sup>th</sup>. 11 million Canadians live with diabetes or pre-diabetes. We call upon all citizens to combat this disease and its life-threatening complications by familiarizing themselves with the diabetes warning signs, making healthy lifestyle choices and accessing the best quality of care that Nova Scotia provides to its citizens with diabetes.

### **Radon Action Month – November 2024**

Radon Awareness Month is observed every November. Radon can be detected using a simple and inexpensive test which is available online, at select local retailers, through a community health organization or from a certified radon professional. Residents are encouraged to test their homes for Radon levels.

### **Domestic Violence Awareness Month – November 2024**

November is annually recognized as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. We recognize domestic violence programs in New Glasgow provide essential, lifesaving services for survivors, their children, and communities, and acknowledge November as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

## **Town Council Reports**

### **Committee of the Whole Report**

Council approved the following recommendations in the Committee of the Whole report:

- Partial Phase III & Phase IV of the South End Sewer Separation be awarded to S.W. Weeks Construction Ltd., at a cost of \$2,148,566 plus HST.
- Award of contract for the implementation of Cityworks to ESRI Canada, at a cost of \$626,272 which includes non-refundable HST.
- The elimination of fluoride addition to Town of New Glasgow potable water supply.
- MFC Fall Debenture Issuance borrowing not to exceed \$1,050,000 over terms not to exceed 20 years for general capital expenditures at an interest rate not to exceed 6.5%.
- The contract award for the HVAC Energy Upgrades be awarded to the sole bidder, Bird Mechanical LTD., for the negotiated price of \$1,451,326 plus HST.
- Appointment of Sean O'Connor as the Unsightly Premises Administrator.
- Appointment of Deputy Chief Ryan Leil to the role of New Glasgow Regional Police Chief.
- The application deadline exemption for Michelle Hicks in the Property Tax Exemption Program be approved.

### **Finance Report**

April 1-September 30 Revenue Actuals equated to \$20,953,851, with a budgeted sum of \$24,244,593 leading to a variance of -\$3,290,742.

Expenses for period up to September 30<sup>th</sup> included but were not limited to:

<b>Department or Program</b>	<b>Actuals September 2024</b>	<b>Budget 2024/25</b>
Protective Services - NGRP	\$2,533,349	\$5, 509,482
General Government	\$1,175,562	\$2,445,900
Community Development	\$408,622	\$1,079,422
Town Owned Properties	\$39,063	\$115,000
Other Protection-Fire Department	\$1,412,560	\$2,345,017
Transportation Service	\$1,387,312	\$3,607,200
Transportation Equipment	\$321,619	\$950,500
Refuse Collection & Disposal	\$318,998	\$670,992



## **Engineering and Public Works**

As of October 7, 2024, Engineering and Public Works provided an update on the major projects and/or initiatives, which include but are not limited to: the 8<sup>th</sup> Street Sewer Project being temporarily placed on hold due to an easement issue, the near completion of the 2024 Asphalt Patching Program, HVAC Energy Updates for town buildings, South End Sewer Separation Project-Phase II/III/IV, Capital Paving and Curb program, including streets paved to date, Wastewater Capacity Study and the completion of the Kempt Street walkway.

Tomlik Properties (James and Marsh Streets) - A hazardous materials abatement process has been conducted on the Tomlik properties, formally known as American House, which allowed for the successful demolition of the property on October 7, 2024. The Town wishes to thank the residents of the surrounding area for their cooperation and patience over the past several months as we worked through this large undertaking.

## **Solid Waste**

A total of 86.17 tons of organics was collected during the month of September 2024, as compared to 108.97 tons of organics collected for the month of September 2023. 50.42 tons of garbage was collected during the month of September 2024, as compared to 52 tons of garbage collected for the month of September 2023, a total of 34.15 tons of recycling was collected during the month of September 2024, as compared to 37.94 tons of recycling collected for the month of September 2023.

## **New Glasgow Regional Police**

In September, the New Glasgow Regional Police handled a total of 624 occurrences, resulting in 39 arrests. Key call drivers included 71 requests for assistance, 69 reports of suspicious persons, properties, or vehicles, and 59 related to the Motor Vehicle Act. Other significant issues involved mental health concerns (37), property checks (36), thefts (33), and court compliance failures (33). There were also 29 calls related to the Protection of Property Act, 27 well-being checks, and 6 assault with a weapon incidents.

Chief Leil announced the official opening of the Community Policing Office at 90 Provost Street. Constable Ryan Thibeau has been appointed as the Community Response Officer, focusing on crime reduction, relationship building, and community engagement, with a particular emphasis on addressing complex social challenges in the downtown area.

New Glasgow Regional Police provided updates about the New Glasgow and Area Crime Prevention Committee. It is a community-based crime prevention initiative committee that aims to assist police with community input and implementation of crime prevention programs and services. This program is a partnership between police and volunteers that helps ensure safe communities. Registrations to join the committee will be accepted at the



NGRP Station located at 255 Park Street, New Glasgow, between 6:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. on October 21, 2024.

The NGRP also provided a traffic analysis report on Beech Street due to recent complaints related to speeding vehicles.

## **Department of Community Development**

September events taking place within the Town of New Glasgow included the filming and standup comedy of the CBC show Johnny Harris' *Still Standing*, Multicultural Festival, magic show, and a guided paddle. Upcoming October events will include but are not limited to, SOS The ABBA Experience Show, Miscellany of Folk Show, Dee Dee Austin Show, and a Bike Summit. Additional information can be found through our Town social media channels!

The Go Play Fund has received 14 applications since the re-launch of the Program in August. To date 13 applications have been approved and 1 application was declined and referred to alternate funding sources (Kids Sport and Jump Start). Just under 25% of this year's funding remains. The online application is available [here](#).

Sustainable actions and efforts continue to play an important role within the Town of New Glasgow with projects that include but are not limited to:

- **Glasgow Square Upgrades:** The Town has partnered with an energy manager to explore potential upgrades for Glasgow Square, seeking Federal funding through the Green and Inclusive Community Buildings program.
- **Northumberland Flood Mapping Project:** This project aims to map 322 km of floodplains along the shoreline, enhancing understanding and preparedness for flood risks.
- **Resilient Home Retrofits Program:** Near completion, the two programs have upgraded 12 homes, and all 71 affordable public housing units in New Glasgow have undergone audits, with five selected for further improvements.
- **Second-Hand Yard Sale:** A community yard sale raised over \$275 for tree planting in New Glasgow and successfully diverted more than 150 kg of items from landfills, promoting recycling and sustainability.



## **Business Development**

East River Business Park development activities include but are not limited to:

- The development of a draft purchase and sale agreement for Lot 5C. Which is currently proposed to be a mixed-use development, comprised of office and residential units.
- Revised site plans for Lot A1, currently under review for Board approval.
- Footing excavation has been completed on Lot 12.
- Survey work has been conducted and is currently under review in support of a land purchase on East River Road.

Additional development activities external to the East River Business Park includes but is not limited to:

- In Collaboration with the Pictou County Partnership continued work on identifying land with 3-phase power availability.

## **Fire and Fire Inspection Reports**

The New Glasgow Fire Department responded to a total of 13 calls during the month of September, calls were comprised of; two fires, five alarms/medical, four motor vehicle collisions, one car fire and one person in an elevator. The Town of New Glasgow Fire Department also participated in two training practices, in addition to one rescue practice throughout the month of September.

A combined total of ten fire inspections and follow-up visits throughout the month of September were also conducted.

## **Building Permits**

Throughout the Month of September, the Town received requests for 6 Building Permits. Permit requests included; new rental unit builds, residential repairs, and renovations. Permits issued throughout the month of September equate to an estimated value of \$1,146,000 in local building and renovation costs. Accumulated permits from January 1, 2024, to September 31, 2024, equate to \$14,104,389 compared to \$7,407,047 for the same period in 2023.

## **Information Technology**

Departmental activities and projects include but are not limited to:

- Department staff have begun to prepare the necessary technology systems and hardware to support the upcoming 2024 Municipal elections.

- MDM management software: enabling better control of iPhones and iPads.
- Implementation of centralized control and monitoring/alerting systems for IoT devices (smart thermostat/temperature controls, lighting control etc.)
- Working in collaboration with NGRP to assist in the setup of the School Resource Officer's office location in the North Nova Education Centre. Which will allow for the officer to access police resources while working at the school to improve public safety and foster a stronger relationship between law enforcement and students.

### **Motions & Public Hearings**

The Town held a Second Reading of the Property Minimum Standards Bylaw. Which is aimed at empowering the Town and its representatives to uphold the health, well-being, safety, and protection of its residents. This bylaw also establishes clear standards for property maintenance and appearance, outlining the responsibilities of property owners and seeks to enhance community standards to ensure that properties are maintained to promote a safe and attractive environment for all residents.

On October 15th, the Town held a Public Hearing on three separate matters, allowing residents to voice their opinions and submit written comments on various development proposals:

File 02-24n: MacDonald & Murphy Inc. submitted a rezoning application for Lot 51 on East River Road (PID: 00931071). The proposal seeks to change the zoning from Residential Two-Unit (R2) to Highway Commercial (C3), which could facilitate commercial development in the area. There were no written submissions received, or verbal comments provided at the public hearing for this matter.

File 03-21n: A development agreement proposed by P.Q. Properties Ltd, which aims to permit the construction of three 4-unit residential buildings on 8th Street, New Glasgow (PID: 01006485). There were no written submissions received, or verbal comments provided at the public hearing for this matter.

File 05-24n: An amendment to a development agreement proposed for lands on Washington Street (PIDs: 65216764 & 65216772). This amendment includes a text change and revised schedules for site plans and building elevations to increase the number of residential units from 9 to 14. There were no written submissions received, or verbal comments provided at the public hearing for this matter.

As there were no written submissions or verbal comments on the matters before the Public Hearing, the matters were referred to Council for their second readings and subsequently approved during the regular Council meeting.



## **Motion from the In-Camera Meeting of September 16, 2024**

Council approved the motion to write a letter to the Town of Westville formally notifying them that they are in breach of the sale of water agreement.

## **Committee Of the Whole**

### **Award Recommendation - Vactor 2100 Truck Assistant Director of Engineering & Public Works**

Town Council has approved the CANOE tender submission, Joe Johnson Equipment, in the amount of \$678,470.40 (or \$707,576.78 including Net HST) for the provision of a new Vactor 2100 Fan Combination Sewer Cleaner for the Town of New Glasgow Water Utility. This decision aligns with the 2024/25 capital budget, which allocated \$760,000 Net HST for the purchase of a new Vactor truck.

### **Recommendation, Director of Information Technology – Outside of Atlantic Canada Travel**

Council has approved the Director of Information Technology's attendance at the North American Network Operators' Group conference from October 21st to 23rd, 2024, in Toronto, ON. This conference will focus on carrier-grade and large-scale networking technologies, which are crucial for enhancing the core network foundations of the RuralNet infrastructure. By participating, the Director will gain valuable insights and networking opportunities that can directly support and improve the RuralNet initiative for the Municipality of the County of Pictou.

## **Committee Reports**

Council received memos with updates from the meetings of the Pictou County Shared Services Authority; Mayors and Warden Committee; Pictou County Wellness Centre Building Authority Inc., Pictou County Transit Authority and the Pictou County Partnership Liaison and Oversight Committee.

## **Questions by Members**

Councillor Peters raised the graffiti issues being impacted in our community and Council approved the action for the development of graffiti management plan that may include bylaw and/or policy development to accompany the plan.

Councillor MacDonald requested that Council members receive a work package two weeks in advance of public works projects that provide an overview of the project, duration of the construction period, and resources involved in the delivery so Council members can speak directly with citizens within the neighbourhoods impacted. Council approved the development of the work packages for the public works projects.

Councillor MacDonald raised the matter of the complaints received about an event held in Carmichael Park recently. Council approved staff developing an updated usage policy for Carmichael Park that will be brought back to Council for final approval.

## **New Business**

Council approved two orders to appear on Monday, November 18, 2024, for consideration of orders to demolish derelict properties that have not been remedied since fires occurred. The two properties are 89 MacKay Street and 269 Mitchell Street.

Council accepted a generous donation of equipment for the Glasgow Square from the family of the late Gregory Arthur Nutt.

Council approved the appointment of Kaila Reid as the Development Officer for the Town of New Glasgow.