

TOWN OF NEW GLASGOW
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2024

A regular meeting of New Glasgow Town Council was held on Monday December 16, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in Chambers. Present were Mayor Dicks, Deputy Mayor Dorrington, Councillors Peters, Fraser, Joe MacDonald, Jessica MacDonald and McKenna. Also present were: Lisa MacDonald, CAO; Kim Livingston, Director of Corporate Services; Ross White, Director of Fire, Inspection and Emergency Services; Earl MacKenzie, Director of Engineering and Public Works; Rebecca Lewis-MacNeil, Director of Human Resources and Corporate Communications; Michelle Ward, Director of Community Development; Ryan Leil, NGRP Chief; Alison Tait, Deputy Clerk; Jeff Hamelin, Information Technology Support Services; Veronica Deno, Active Living Manager; Solicitor DeMont (participated virtually via MS Teams); Heather Murphy, Auditor with MacDonald & Murphy Inc.; and Ethan Malech, Cycling Nova Scotia. Absent from the meeting were Prasad Patil, Communication and Engagement Manager; Audrey Buchanan, Assistant Director of Engineering; and Derek Eisan, Director of IT.

Mayor Dicks stated that as we gather this evening, we pause to remember that in this province we live and work on lands that are by law the unceded territories of the Wabanaki peoples – predominantly the land of the Mi'kmaq. May we live with respect on this land and live in peace and friendship with its people. We also recognize the African Nova Scotians whose culture, heritage, and history have been and remain a key part of our province for more than 400 years.

AGENDA

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

Motion carried.

PETITIONS/DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Heather Murphy from MacDonald & Murphy Inc., presented the audited financial statements for the fiscal year 2023-2024 which indicated that on a consolidated basis, the Town had a surplus of \$4,048,700 as of March 31, 2024. The consolidated investment in capital infrastructure totaled \$8,314,600. During the fiscal year, new debt was issued in the amount of \$942,900 primarily related to investments in transportation and public works equipment, paving, traffic lighting and Town owned building upgrades. Total debt repayment for the fiscal period was \$1,517,600. On a non-consolidated basis, the general operating fund had a surplus of \$350,800. The water utility's operating fund had a deficit of (\$368,500) and a \$3.78 million investment in water capital infrastructure. It was the opinion of auditor, Heather Murphy with MacDonald and Murphy Inc., that the financial statements presented fairly and all material respects the financial position of the Town of New Glasgow as of March 31, 2024 and its results of operations and cash flows for the year that ended March 31, 2024 are in accordance with the Canadian Public Sector Accounting Standards.

Mayor Dicks thanked Heather for her presentation and delivered remarks on behalf of the Town.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the financial statements be accepted as presented.

Motion carried.

PRESENTATION BY CYCLING NS

Ethan Malech, Active Transportation Planner/Designer delivered a power point presentation to Council introducing the Core AT Network Project which is a Cycling Nova Scotia initiative to develop community-based plans and designs for walking, rolling, and cycling infrastructure to support decision-

makers with implementation on construction. This plan will contribute to a more equitable, healthy and sustainable future for residents of the Town. Cycling NS is seeking Council direction and support implementing the Core AT Network Project and outlined two funding options for consideration.

Mayor Dicks thanked Ethan for the presentation and that the Town looks forward to working with Cycling Nova Scotia in their future endeavors to meet their goal to complete core active transportation networks that are accessible for all ages and all abilities in 65% of the Province's communities by 2030.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

It was regularly moved and seconded that the consent agenda including the Council and Committee of the Whole Meeting minutes of November 18, 2024 be accepted as presented.

Motion carried.

REPORTS

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Committee of the Whole Report be accepted as circulated.

Motion carried.

FINANCE REPORT

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Finance Report be accepted as circulated.

Motion carried.

ENGINEERING AND PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Engineering and Public Works Report be accepted as circulated.

Motion carried.

SOLID WASTE REPORT

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Engineering and Public Works Report be accepted as circulated.

Motion carried.

POLICE REPORT

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Police Report be accepted as circulated.

Councillor Jessica MacDonald asked whether specific occurrence data could be extracted from the report to identify the occurrences with respect to Viola's Place.

Chief Leil explained that the report contains a wealth of information, including details about geography, individuals, and charges. He suggested that if a more specific set of information is needed, a request should be made to the police department for the scope of data.

Councillor Fraser praised Chief Leil for the extensive amount of information included in the report.

Motion carried.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Community Development Report be accepted as circulated.

Motion carried.

FIRE REPORT AND FIRE INSECTION REPORT

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Building Report be accepted as circulated.

Councillor McKenna inquired about the number of hours reported for cardiac calls and the number of members who respond to the calls.

Chief White explained that there is a full departmental response to medical calls as assistance may be needed on the street and/or inside the location of the medical emergency.

Councillor Jessica MacDonald inquired if data could be pulled to reflect the number of cardiac arrest calls, and drug use calls that involve the residents at Viola's Place Society.

Chief White stated that reports can be extracted that provide that information.

Deputy Mayor Dorrington inquired if and when the fire department is deployed, how often do they arrive on the scene before Emergency Health Services and how can they assist prior to Emergency Health Services arriving at the scene.

Chief White advised that there is a Trama kit, oxygen and Narcan kit on the truck and the members are able to give medical treatments as a first responder.

Councillor Jessica MacDonald inquired if Emergency Health Services automatically call the fire department for a cardiac arrest call.

Chief White advised that members respond to cardiac arrest, motor vehicle accidents and severe trauma calls.

Councillor Peters inquired what is the monetary amount incurred by the Town and the number of man hours that are used when responding to emergency medical calls.

Chief White advised that this information can be added to the report.

Motion carried.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY REPORT

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Information Technology Report be accepted as circulated.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

ACCOUNTS

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

Motion carried.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM IN CAMERA

LAND PURCHASE – 8TH STREET

It was the recommendation to Council from the November 18, 2024 Committee of the Whole Meeting to proceed with the land purchase from Rose Shaw for the purpose of the 8th Street sewer infrastructure.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the land purchase from Rose Shaw for the purpose of the 8th Street sewer infrastructure proceed.

Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

It was regularly moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 6:43 pm.

Motion carried.