

**DIGBY TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY April 7, 2020
Video Conference Call**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Ben Cleveland
Councillor Mike Bartlett
Councillor Danny Harvieux
Councillor Peter Turnbull

STAFF PRESENT : Tom Ossinger, Chief Administrative Officer
Leslie Brinton, Executive Assistant
Matthew Raymond, Director of Finance

REGRETS: Deputy Mayor Jean Brittain

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Cleveland called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS

B.1 None.

C. AGENDA

C.1 Additions/Deletions

Tax deferral listed under J.2 New Business will move to In Camera

C.2 Approval

Motion

Moved by Councillor Harvieux and seconded by Councillor Bartlett that the Agenda of April 7, 2020 be approved with one amendment J.2 Tax Deferral will move to In Camera.

Motion Carried.

D. DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

D.1 None.

E. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

E.1 March 2, 2020

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Harvieux and seconded by Councillor Turnbull that the Minutes of March 2, 2020 be approved as presented.

Motion Carried.

E.2 March 16, 2020 Special Council Meeting

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Bartlett and seconded by Councillor Turnbull that the Minutes of the March 16, 2020 Special Council Meeting be approved as presented.

Motion Carried.

F. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

F.1 None.

G. REPORT

G.1 Chief Administrative Officer Report

The CAO report was presented. The tender for the Waste Water Project has been awarded to Mid Valley Construction and the revised funding agreement extending the project until March 31, 2021 has also been received. There is also a delay with delivery of the material required for the waste water project due to the product being manufactured internationally. The ACOA funding application for the Water Street Sidewalk Upgrade that was submitted had not been approved for funding. Survey work has commenced on the Racquette Garden Road once the survey plan in on paper the CAO will arrange to meet with the property owners in that area. The CAO provided an overview of operations in these unprecedented times of Covid-19 the town is currently following the orders and advise of the Premier and the Chief Medical Officer to continue operations and provide essential services. All buildings are now closed to the public. Staff are working in shifts and some are working from home to limit the amount of people in the building. Public works are also working in shifts and limiting the working in pairs to a very minimum when possible. The CAO is working full shifts Monday to Friday in the Town Hall. All staff have been directed to stay home if they are not feeling well for any reason. Municipal parks are now closed under the Provincial State of Emergency. The Finance department is working on the year end and department heads are working on budgets for the coming year. The Provincial Coordination Center is at a level 3 full activation. The Digby REMO is activated virtually with daily communication with the required staff. The NSFMS is working with AMANS to develop a program for a provincially led business solution. They are asking that no local level decision be made at this time. The CAO conducted an email poll of the Water Commission members concerning the suspension of interest on overdue water accounts based on those results an application was made to suspend interest rates on overdue accounts for 90 days approval from the UARB was granted the same day as the request was made.

G.2 Committee of the Whole Report

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Harvieux and seconded by Councillor Bartlett that Council proceed with the Marketing Room Levy.

Motion Carried.

H. CORRESPONDENCE

H.1 None.

I. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

I.1 None.

J. NEW BUSINESS

J.1 Future Meetings

The CAO added this to the Agenda tonight for Council consideration into meetings such as the Committee of the Whole other units have discontinued this meeting and are still holding a monthly Council meeting and if something comes up we can hold additional meetings if required. Council agreed that this is the way to proceed at this time.

Mayor Cleveland spoke about a newsletter that was put together by the Inspiring Communities group there is no mention of the Town of Digby and some misinformation in the newsletter Mayor Cleveland has been speaking to Jill Balser to express the concern on the misinformation that was printed and no mention of the Town of Digby. Mayor Cleveland has also been working with local Senior Safety Coordinator Dawn Thomas she was asking for assistance from him on lending a helping hand to contact seniors and folks in the community if anyone is willing to help just send a message along to the Mayor.

J.2 Spending Authority & Business Continuity Budget 2020/2021

The CAO has drafted a motion for Council's consideration for the approval of one half of the Operating Budget for 2019/20 for the purposed of providing spending authority and business continuity in the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2020 and until the Operating Budget is presented and approved by Council.

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Harvieux and seconded by Councillor Turnbull that Council approve one-half of the Operating Budget for the 2019/20 in the amount of \$2,154,281 for the purpose of providing spending authority and business continuity in the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2020 and until a full Operating Budget is presented and approved by Council.

Motion Carried.

K. IN CAMERA

K.1 Tax deferral

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Harvieux and seconded by Councillor Bartlett that Council move to In Camera.

Motion Carried.

Council moved out of In Camera

L. ADJOURNMENT

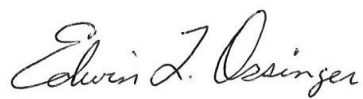
Motion:

Motion for adjournment was moved by Councillor Harvieux and seconded by Councillor Turnbull at 7:10 P.M.

Motion Carried.



Mayor Ben Cleveland



Clerk E. Tom Ossinger