

**DIGBY TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
Monday December 7, 2020
Council Chambers**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Ben Cleveland
Deputy Mayor Mike Bartlett
Councillor Peter Turnbull
Councillor William McCormick
Councillor Paul Saulnier

STAFF PRESENT : Tom Ossinger, Chief Administrative Officer
Leslie Brinton, Executive Assistant

REGRETS:

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

One addition to the agenda under New Business J.5 Community Garden Request.

C.2 Approval

Motion

Moved by Deputy Mayor Bartlett and seconded by Councillor Saulnier that the Agenda of December 7, 2020 be approved with one addition under New Business J.5 Community Garden Request.

Motion Carried.

D. DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

D.1 Recognition awards

Mayor Cleveland presented two awards these are normally presented at the annual recognition awards dinner however with Covid-19 that was unable to happen. Tonight Sheree Halliday is receiving a 5 year plaque as a citizen member on the Digby Area Senior Safety Board and Leslie Brinton the Executive Assistant of the Town of Digby is receiving a 10 year plaque.

D.2 Digby Harbour Port Authority

Ed Chisholm and Vance Hazelton are here presenting on behalf of the Port Authority tonight to discuss the work that has been done and work that they will be doing in the future. There is lots of activity happening on the wharf currently the maximum capacity is 74 vessels. The Port Association has developed an infrastructure plan which will include a 3 million dollar investment for modifications of the facilities and will benefit many business sectors. The project being discussed here tonight would see additional floating docks, wave attenuation, and additional wharf access which will lead to more opportunity for further growth and increased job creation in the region. At this time the Port Authority is seeking an investment from the Town of Digby which will come to the Town as an official request in writing. The entire project is broken down into three phases. The Port will be sending correspondence for funding request to the Town. The Port thanked the Town of Digby for the cooperation into the project to this point and for the time this evening to present.

E. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

E.1 November 2, 2020 (2016-2020 Council)

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Turnbull and seconded by Councillor Saulnier that the Minutes of November 2, 2020 (2016-2020 Council) be approved as presented.

Motion Carried.

E.2 November 2, 2020 (New Council)

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Saulnier and seconded by Deputy Mayor Bartlett that the November 2, 2020 Council minutes 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 Wastewater upgrade project are completed and awaiting NSP power connection and then commissioning can take place. The force main along Admiral's Walk is progressing nicely. The CAO took part in the Training and Orientation Program for Elected Officials. The Mayors, Wardens and CAO's of the southwest region met virtually with Federal Fisheries Minister to begin dialogue around public safety and security and economic concerns of the municipal units and residents related to the ongoing tensions around fishery in the Saint Mary's bay. Nothing new to report on the old Provincial VIC property at this time. The Trans Canada Trail registration agreement has now been signed and we are awaiting the execution back from the Trans Canada Trail folks the agreement allows for funding opportunities. The Covid-19 protocols are still in place as we enter the second wave of Covid-19 there are travel restriction in place in the province effecting Metro HRM and Hants County of the Central Region of the Province. The Town staff will be monitoring the situation of Covid-19 and make adjustments to operations as required. The Association of Municipal Administrators of NS have drafted a Video Conferencing/Teleconference policy we currently have one in place however the current policy

doesn't allow for all of Council to attend by Video conferencing the recommendation from the CAO is to recommend the amendment to allow all of Council to attend by Video Conferencing and Staff will make those amendments and bring back to Committee of the Whole for review. There is also a Town Grant and Contribution to Organization Program the draft one from AMANS is far less extensive the one that we currently use there for the CAO is recommending that the Town's Grant and Contribution to Organization policy be rescinded and replaced with the Community Grants Policy. The direction of Council was to draft and bring forward the amendments and draft policy. The CAO attended the NSFM virtual meeting the nominating Committee provided their report and the selection for President, Vice President were determined. The CAO attended the NSFM Town Caucus Meeting virtually the main purpose of the meeting was to elect the Town Caucus member to represent the Town on the NSFM Board and member to the Town Caucus Executive.

G.2 Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee met and discussed the applicant for the Citizen Member on the Digby Water Commission.

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Turnbull and seconded by Councillor McCormick that Warne Prime be appointed as the Citizen Member on the Digby Water Commission for a four year term ending November 30, 2024.

Motion Carried.

G.3 Digby Area Recreation Commission Report

The reports were circulated in your package.

G.4 Senior Safety Advisory Board Report

The report was circulated in your package.

G.5 Committee of the Whole Report

Three recommendation are coming forward from the Committee of the Whole.

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Saulnier and seconded by Councillor Turnbull that Council authorize the replacement of the Admiral's Walk Flag Poles.

Motion Carried.

Motion:

Moved by Councillor McCormick and seconded by Deputy Mayor Bartlett that Council approve the AMANS and NSFM one time funding request in the amount of \$594.15 as requested.

Motion Carried.

Motion:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Bartlett and seconded by Councillor Saulnier that Council approve the Iris Communication proposal at a cost of \$606.59 as presented.

Motion Carried.

H. CORRESPONDENCE

H.1 None.

I. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

I.1 None.

J. NEW BUSINESS

J.1 Nova Scotia Crime Stoppers

The Nova Scotia Crime stoppers is reaching out to see if we are interested in an advertisement however this is a very tight budget year and this request in the past has not been one that the Town participates in. Council didn't wish to participate at this time.

J.2 The Salvation Army

The Salvation Army sent correspondence asking if we are interest in supporting them. The town currently supports the Salvation Army with a lease agreement for the Mount Street property at this time Council didn't wish to send any further donation.

J.3 Electric Vehicle Charging Station

The Western REN is working with MCC Energy Strategies INC on an application to the Zero Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Program offered through Natural Resources Canada the program would look to have a minimum of 20 installed charging stations they are taking a regional approach and trying to identify some potential location and partnering with each of the 7 municipal units in the region. Council discussed the program and are interested in this project provided funding became available with the right funding model. The direction given to the CAO to advise the Western REN that we are interested in such a project pending funding and a modest funding model for the project.

J.4 Tax sale process

The CAO provided a report to Council regarding the authority under the Municipal Government Act to sell land for taxes at a public auction. We have used this method in the past. In March we had a scheduled tax sale however with the outbreak of Covid-19 at that time it was postponed. At this point in time it appears that we will have two properties that will be coming up at a sale. The CAO is recommending that Council give consent to call tenders for the properties rather than public auction.

Motion:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Bartlett and seconded by Councillor McCormick that Council give the treasure consent to call tenders for property rather than put the property up for sale at public Auction for the March 2021 tax sale.

Motion Carried.

J.5 Community Garden Project

Correspondence was received by the CAO today from Digby Area Recreation Commission asking for a letter of support for a Community Garden project for tree planting. The Community Garden is located on land owned by the Town of Digby that is why they are asking for a letter of support for the trees. Council discussed the request and was in favor of drafting the letter in support of the Community Garden Project.

K. IN CAMERA

K.1 Personnel/Legal

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Turnbull and seconded by Deputy Mayor Bartlett that Council move to In Camera for Personnel/legal.

Motion Carried.

Motion:

Moved by Councillor McCormick and seconded by Councillor Turnbull that the Council move out of In Camera.

Motion Carried.

Motion:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Bartlett and seconded by Councillor McCormick that Grant Creighton be made an offer at no cost for Lot 100 as per the sketch dated December 3, 2020 Plan # 2020-027 Sketch 3 and consolidate the lots as previously offered and accepted.

Motion Carried.

L. ADJOURNMENT

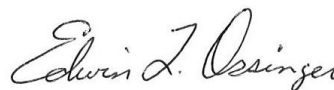
Motion:

Motion for adjournment was moved by Councillor Saulnier and seconded by Deputy Mayor Bartlett at 8:29 P.M.

Motion Carried.



Mayor Ben Cleveland



Clerk E. Tom Ossinger