

**TOWN OF DIGBY
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
August 16, 2021
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
Matthew Raymond, Director of Finance

REGRETS: Bruce Baxter, By Law Enforcement Officer
Ed McCormick, Director of Public Works

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Cleveland called the meeting to order at 5:54 P.M.

B. AGENDA

B.1 Additions/Deletions

Four additions to the Agenda. Under New Business H.5 British Home Children H.6 Double parking one item under In Camera item Town Property and one item under staff reports F.3 Director of Finance Report.

B.2 Approval of the Agenda

Motion:

Moved by Councillor McCormick and seconded by Councillor Saulnier that the Agenda for August 16, 2021 be approved with four additions to the Agenda. Under New Business H.5 British Home Children H.6 Double parking one item under In Camera Town Property and one item under staff reports F.3 Director of Finance Report.

Motion Carried.

C. DELEGATION AND PRESENTATION

C.1 None.

D. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

D.1 July 19, 2021

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Turnbull and seconded by Deputy Mayor Bartlett that the Minutes of July 19, 2021 be approved as presented.

Motion Carried.

E. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

E.1 Draft RFP for former VIC

Councillor Saulnier asked about the draft Request for Proposal for the former VIC on Shore Road the CAO is working on this.

F. STAFF REPORTS

F.1 Chief Administrative Officer

a) Report

The Chief Administrative Officer report was presented and reviewed. There was only one development permit approved for 120 Prince William Street. There is ongoing developer for a new 4 unit apartment building a rezoning application for the property is pending. There is a proposal being discussed for a large scale development not a lot of details at this time. There was only one building permit issued for 3 Birch Street. The CAO will be off on vacation from Monday August 23 to September 7 in his absence the Executive Assistant will be the Acting CAO. The Digby Scallop Days festival held August 6 to 9th was a success. The upcoming Lobster Bash Festival has prepared a Covid-19 plan in accordance with Covid-19 protocols and they have made application to the Town of Digby for their Special event license and Umbrella Vending License. The CAO tried to contact the Staff Sargent concerning the possibility of increase motorcycle traffic in the area that weekend however he is out of the office until August 16th. The CAO met with Sharon MacAlpine and Ed McCormick as well as a couple of members of the newly formed Splash Pad Association the purpose of the meeting was to talk about the location of a splash pad in the Town of Digby. The spot that was chosen was the Vaughan Vantassel playground. The Town will be accepting donation and we will be able to issue tax receipts for the Splash Pad. The group is very considerate of the long term costs to maintain the splash pad once constructed. The Town Hall staff will be switching to Option B as per the Modified Work Week policy starting on Monday August 16th the trial with Option A has gone well. The MOU for the use of Digby Station by the Nova Scotia Health Authority has been extended until the end of September it is highly likely that they will be closing the testing site at that time however it will depend on where we are in the fourth wave of Covid-19. The Visitor Information Centre is seeing an increase in the amount of tourists who are visiting especially from the USA. The derelict vehicles at Well 5 have yet to be removed the owner of them still has a few days remaining until the 30 days has past but after that time we will be deeming them abandoned and we will have them removed and sold for salvage if the money collected for salvage doesn't cover the cost to have them removed we can commence legal action against the owner of the derelict vehicles. The fountain at the Racquette pond is still be worked on the power poll is now installed.

F.2 Director of Public Works

a) Report

The Director of Public report was presented. Councillor Saulnier mentioned about the old VIC on Shore Road the lights on the outside of the building don't seem to be working. The Director of Public Works was unable to attend tonight meeting however the CAO will ensure that the lights at the former VIC on Shore Road get looked at.

F.3 Director of Finance

a) Report

The Director of Finance Report was presented and reviewed. The Director spoke about the Disaster Mitigation Adaptation Fund the call for applications has recently opened up this funding opportunity provides up to 40 percent federal funding towards approved municipal projects. The Town currently does not have any projects that would fit this criteria. The Active Transportation Fund will soon be accepting applications with the maximum amount of funding to be awarded at \$50,000. They will fund 100% of planning or 60% of capital projects.

G. CORRESPONDENCE

G.1 None.

H. NEW BUSINESS

H.1 Waterfront Development Corporation

The Waterfront Development Corporation now known as Develop NS were in town a few weeks ago and meet with Mayor Cleveland. They have worked with other communities in Nova Scotia and Digby has been on the radar for some time. The Mayor spoke to them regarding a public boat launch and beach access there will be more to come on this.

H.2 Façade Program

This goes along with discussion with Develop they have lots of knowledge working with façade initiatives and they feel that Digby can do a lot of things to improve the façade. The Mayor would like to strike a subcommittee to sit down and look at what others are doing. The Town of Yarmouth is doing great work on their downtown perhaps Jeff Gushue CAO from the Town of Yarmouth might be willing to chat about what's working for them. Councillor Turnbull would like to be involved with this subcommittee. Ed Moore should also be asked to join the façade committee he has been discussing Facade for a while and made presentations to Council on this.

H.3 Affordable Housing

Councillor Saulnier added this to the agenda the chair of the Affordable Housing group has resigned moving forward Councillor Saulnier is interested in sending correspondence to other Municipal units in the Tri Counties to form a discussion group on affordable housing perhaps we draft a letter to all the units in the Tri counties and see if there is interest in forming such a group. The Committee directed the CAO to draft a letter to the Municipal units of the tri counties and go from there.

H.4 Accessibility Advisory Committee

The Accessibility Committee is having challenges to obtain community citizens to fill the sets on this committee there is talk among the staff we may have to look after amending the committee structure to allow for only 2 citizen members rather than 4 and only 1 member of each Council rather than 2 from each Council. More to come on this in the days ahead.

H.5 British Home Children

We received correspondence from Richard Parry today seeking the approval of the Council to participate in the 152nd Anniversary of the first British Home Child by allowing the lighthouse on Admirals Walk to be illuminated for 152 minutes on September 29, 2021. This is something that we have done in the past and they proceed again this year.

H.6 Double Parking

Councillor Turnbull asked if the RCMP have stopped issuing tickets for double parking in the downtown core. There seems to be less ticketing and more double parking happening. The Town of Digby Special Constable can issue tickets for double parking as well during regular business hours. The CAO and the Mayor will be trying to arrange a meeting with the RCMP concerning this and other matter in the coming weeks. Deputy Mayor Bartlett can also bring this up as a concern at the next RCMP Joint Police Advisory Meeting.

I. IN-CAMERA

I.1 Personnel

I.2 Town Property

Motion:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Bartlett and seconded by Councillor Turnbull that the Committee move to In Camera for Personnel and Town Property.

Motion Carried.

The Committee moved out of In camera.


J. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.

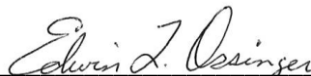
Motion:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Bartlett and seconded by Councillor McCormick that the meeting be adjourned at 7:21 P.M.

Motion Carried.



Mayor



Clerk