

**DIGBY TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
Monday May 3, 2021
VIA Zoom**

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 P.M.

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS

B.1 None.

C. AGENDA

C.1 Additions/Deletions

Two additions to the Agenda under New Business J.2 Crosswalks and signage and J.3 Flower Box sponsors.

C.2 Approval

Motion

Moved by Councillor Saulnier and seconded by Councillor Turnbull that the Agenda for May 3, 2021 be approved with two additions under New Business J.2 Crosswalks and signage and J.3 Flower box sponsors.

Motion Carried.

D. DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

D.1 None.

E. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

E.1 April 6, 2021

Motion:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Bartlett and seconded by Councillor Saulnier that the Minutes of April 6, 2021 be approved as presented.

Motion Carried.

F. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

F.1 Terry Gilbert Art Work

The Administration department was asked to follow up with Terry to see if any discussion has been done with the current business owner that was not indicated on the initial email about the Art work. The owners of that building are aware of the proposed Art Work. The CAO provided an Update when the Eye Doctor Building was painted by Terry many years ago Council contributed \$1000.00 towards the project. Terry had offered to come to Council and speak on this project and perhaps we invite her to come and speak once the restrictions lift. The CAO expressed to the Council caution in funding projects for private business. If we has a façade program that would be a way to fund a project such as this.

G. REPORTS

G.1 Acting Chief Administrative Officer Report

The Acting CAO report was distributed to Council. The CAO spoke about the notice of Bill 77 after speaking to the Legislative Office the act can be proclaimed at any time however we don't have a By Law in place and that really should be in place prior to the bill be proclaimed. Both the Municipality and the Town of Digby need to adopt the By-law which takes time. The Levy likely will not be in place before 2022 that will allow the CAO to work on the By-law and allow the time needed for Council to adopt that by law.

G.2 Digby Area Recreation Commission

The reports was distributed to the Council in the package. Councillor Turnbull forwarded to all Council the draft design for the Community Gardens.

G.3 Committee of the Whole

There are two policies coming forward from the Committee of the Whole Meeting for Council consideration.

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Saulnier and seconded by Councillor McCormick the Council adopt the Dangerous or Unightly Premise Policy as presented.

Motion Carried.

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Turnbull and seconded by Deputy Mayor Bartlett that Council approve the HR Policy #2014-05 Hours of Work Policy amendments as presented.

Motion Carried.

H. CORRESPONDENCE

H.1 CREATiff Productions

Correspondence to Council is here from Tiffany Barrett who is also our Town of Digby Crossing Guard she is also an artist who would like to run a contest with the grade 6 immersion class to design some art work that she will paint on the crossing guard hut on Victoria Street. She is asking to see if Council would agree to this project and also donate a prize for the winner such as a pool pass for the summer. Council like this idea providing it can be done during a Covid-19 lockdown. Deputy Mayor Bartlett who is current the DARC Board Chair will ask and see if a pool pass for the summer might be something that can be donated to the project.

H.2 Digby Area Recreation Commission-Canada Day

Typically Canada Day Celebrations are a Mayor and Councillor BBQ at Fishermen's Park however with Covid-19 and the current lockdown the typically BBQ celebration is unlikely. The funding application for the event is always done through DARC. The application is typically done in November and the funding was approved for \$1,400 for the 2021 celebration. DARC is proposing an alternative idea to the typical BBQ perhaps a "Party in a Box" which might include items for a Canada Day themed party at home. Council is willing to work with DARC to host a Canada Day alternative celebration.

H.3 Municipal Affairs Minister McGuire 12 month notice

For the two new Councillors we are required to receive a 12 month notice from the Province for any changes in funding models that will affect our budget. The CAO spoke about the changes on this notice that will likely affect us greatly that will be around the Department of Environment and the coastal protection legislation (Bill 106) we may have to have a designated professional in place and that is where the costs will come from. The Department of Intergovernmental Affairs are notifying us of changes as of January 1, 2020 of the covered procurement values under CETA and CFTA and there will be new thresholds coming in 2022-23 as well. The Department of Justice is notifying us of increase costs for Biological Casework Analysis for DNA analysis the 2021-22 year due to rise in costs for Employee Benefits plan. The Accessibility Act requires all municipalities and village in NS to have an accessibility plan and establish an accessibility committee by April 1, 2022 there will be costs coming forward as part of the Accessibility Plan. The Library funding model there will be mandated amounts coming into effect in 2022/2023 that will impact the financial contribution to the Libraries.

H.4 DRHS Graduation

Last year during Covi-19 the Town of Digby was able to help with costs for this event for photography. This year's committee is asking for the downtown for a walk and other events. This request came just before Nova Scotia went into lockdown and with the current Public Health Guidelines in place an event such as this would not be able to happen. However if the gathering limits change Council can re visit the request at the Committee of the Whole Meeting in May. We will notify the Committee and also request a Covid-19 plan should be Regulations change and the event be allowed to move forward.

I. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

I.1 None.

J. NEW BUSINESS

J.1 Digby General Hospital parking

Councillor Saulnier asked if possible we draft a letter to Digby General Hospital at the current time Valley Regional Hospital is currently not charging for parking at their site. Mayor Cleveland will be meeting with the Digby General Hospital Site Administrator in the next week and see if this is something that is able to be done here at Digby General Hospital.

J.2 Crosswalks

Councillor McCormick was speaking to a concerned citizen on the crosswalk at Warwick Street and King Street could this be a potential site for future flashing crosswalk signs. The initial plan

Is to continue along Warwick Street which is a high traffic area and future plan is to do the entire town as funds allow. Councillor Saulnier asked about the one way section of Prince William Street and years ago there was a one way painted on the road way could this be done again the answer would be no this is not an acceptable way to indicate one way traffic it will have to be done through signage.

J.3 Flower Box Sponsors

Mayor Cleveland has been speaking to folks who would be interested in sponsoring a flower box and the Town would install a small sign indicating who the sponsor is. There are lots of locations that the sponsorship can be done at.

K. IN CAMERA

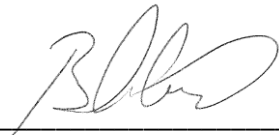
K.1 None.

L. ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

Motion for adjournment was moved by Councillor McCormick and seconded by Councillor Turnbull at 6:54 P.M.

Motion Carried.



Mayor Ben Cleveland



Clerk E. Tom Ossinger