

**DIGBY TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
Monday May 6, 2024
Council Chambers**

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

STAFF PRESENT : Tom Ossinger, Chief Administrative Officer
Leslie Brinton, Executive Assistant
Rob Hartmier, Grant Coordinator

REGRETS:

A. CALL TO ORDER

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

B. PUBLIC HEARING

B.1 None.

C. AGENDA

C.1 Additions/Deletions

Change to the agenda order under Delegations D 1. Friends of Ferals and D 2. Andrea Hyslop

C.2 Approval

Motion

Moved by Deputy Mayor Bartlett and seconded by Councillor Turnbull that the Agenda for May 6, 2024, be approved as amended.

Motion Carried.

D. DELEGATIONS

D.1 Friends of Ferals

Correspondence was received from the Friends of Ferals thanking the Chief Administrative Officer for the assistance locating a new temporary shelter. They are now searching for a lot of land to use as a more permanent shelter. The CAO spoke about the lot on Sydney Street that the mini home was on, the lot was to be cleared and gravelled. It might be an excellent location for a shelter and room for expansion if needed. Public works currently has no need for that lot currently. A twenty-four-foot x twenty-four-foot building is what they are thinking but no firm

plans in place now. CAO said that the lot could be done as a lease agreement with the Friends of Ferals. The lot in question would be ideal as it would be easy access for a town location.

Motion:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Bartlett and seconded by Councillor Saulnier that we enter into an agreement with Friends of Ferals Society for a leased lot on Second Avenue.

Motion Carried.

D.2 Andrea Hyslop Municipal Advisor

Mayor Cleveland welcomed Andrea Hyslop Municipal Advisor to the Council meeting. Andrea discussed the new Service Exchange Agreement there will be more information coming regarding policing. The new Code of conduct regulations will be coming after the fall election. The province has hired an employee that will be dealing with Coastal protection we can arrange a presentation from the new employee Andrea can put us in touch.

The MGA changes were discussed and one being that By-Law notices will not need to be advertised in a paper they are able to be published on the Town of Digby Website.

Council inquired about the Antigonish consolidation as we know it did not go through it, made it to the third reading and it did not pass.

Council talked about the challenges we are facing around tender for large infrastructure projects coming in much higher than budgeted and Andrea is hearing this from other Municipalities in the province we are not unique.

There are about 150 schools that are owned and sit on municipal land. A land transfer chat would be done with the Department of Education regarding the options that are available for the Town of Digby specifically. We have no control of that property however it sits on Municipal land and would be worth having a conversation with the Department of Education.

There are concerns about the infrastructure on the south end of town because we do not own the land and the Department of Natural Resources does not have the funds available to repair and the letter of authority does not give us the ability to borrow money or spend any for repairs.

Department of Natural Resources would be the department that would own that land that we are looking for. The CAO also spoke about the Marshalling yard and not having the ownership of the land. Andrea can put us in touch with the province regarding the land. Council thanked Andrea for joining in tonight's meeting.

E. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

E.1 April 2, 2024

Motion:

Moved by Councillor McCormick and seconded by Councillor Saulnier that the Minutes of April 2, 2024, be approved as presented.

Motion Carried.

E.2 April 15, 2024, Public Consultation Meeting

No correspondence was received after the meeting.

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Saulnier and seconded by Councillor Turnbull that the Minutes of the April 15, 2024 Public Consultation Meeting be approved as presented.

Motion Carried.

F. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

F.1 None.

G. REPORTS

G.1 Chief Administrative Officer Report

The Housing Coalition group is in the process of redoing the site plan no timeline was given. The Fire Department compressor has been ordered and has been half funded by the Municipality of Digby the Grant Coordinator has applied for funding under the FCC Agrispirit.

A NSCC Office Assistant will be conducting a 5-week work placement, they are often of benefit. Grant Coordinator is doing very well and working on several grant files.

Nova Scotia Housing Authority did a conference call and further discussion in camera.

There is no recommendation on the tender for Shore Road culvert currently. The tenders received were over budget and they are still being reviewed at this time.

An agreement has been drafted for the former VIC and Digby Area Tourism Association which is a term of one year but renewable and we will not be suppling janitorial for that site.

Farmers Market is talking with Digby Area Tourism about the washrooms for the vendors.

G.2 Community Grants

The Southwest Nova Speed Skating Club only made application to the Town for funding discussion ensued about increasing the request to the \$2,500 from the \$1,850 as previously discussed.

Digby Area Theater Society will have a detailed letter going to them explaining the commitment of the Council.

Motion:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Bartlett and seconded by Councillor Saulnier Council approved the following 2024/2025 Community Grants:

Wharf Rat Rally \$5,000

Friend of Ferals \$2,000

Lobster Bash \$5,000

Digby Area Tourism Association \$5,000

Digby Scallop Days \$5,000

Digby Cancer Help Fund Association \$500

Southwest Biosphere Reserve Association \$500

Digby Downtown Business Association \$5,000

Tree Lighting \$1,500

Christmas on Maiden Lane \$1,500

Southwest Nova Speed Skating Club \$2,500 (Increase from \$1,850)

Transport d'Clare \$2,000.

Fundy Chorale \$500

Digby Area Theatre Society \$2,100 (Pending receipts)

Total \$38,100

Motion Carried.

G.3 Committee of The Whole Report

Motion:

Moved by Councillor McCormick and seconded by Councillor Saulnier the Council approve the June 15, 2024, Multicultural Festival and that the fee be waived for this year's event.

Motion Carried.

G.4 Digby Fire Advisory Committee Report

The April 16, 2024, Digby Fire Advisory Committee minutes were presented. It was suggested that Council draft a thank you letter to the Digby Fire Department thanking them for the work done at the most recent Water Street structure fire.

Motion:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Bartlett and seconded by Councillor McCormick that Council accepted the Digby Fire Advisory Committee minutes as presented.

Motion Carried.

G.5 Digby Area Recreation Committee Report

The report was provided in the package.

Motion:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Bartlett and seconded by Councillor McCormick that Council accept the Digby Area Recreation Commission Report as presented.

Motion Carried.

H. CORRESPONDENCE

H.1 Letter from Friends of Ferals

This item was moved to Delegations.

H.2 Harbour Port Authority

A Letter went to Waste Check and the reply was sent back to the Harbour Port Authority.

The dumpster has been taken off the wharf there has been lots of notice given for this change.

I. NEW BUSINESS

I.1 Off-highway Vehicles Access Town of Digby

This is regarding access for Off-highway Vehicles and to gather the thoughts from the Council to give some direction post consultation meeting as to whether they wish to proceed. There were only a few negative comments but also many positive ones. Nothing was received from the public after the meeting.

Paul said the people he spoke with had concerns that focused more on enforcement and how it will happen. There will be more control of the street. The expectation will be no plate no access. There is a possibility to have Digby Natural Resources to increase patrol but once we open the road it will fall under the RCMP and rules of the road will apply, with a max speed of 25 km per hour. Signage will be key for the trail and access for the streets. The CAO will come back with a draft to the Committee of The Whole for input from Council.

I.2 Town of Digby Capital Budget

The Director of Finance provided to Council the Town of Digby Capital Budget in the package but also provided a printed copy. Matt highlighted some ideas. The last page in the report paints a picture from 2003 to present. Blue represents the town spending and orange is capital spending. The Director did a full review of the Capital Budget of the highlighted numbers.

If there are any ideas for beautification, please let the CAO know, we already have some items we need like the benches. Digby Water Commission has past the Capital Plan at the last meeting.

The CAO spoke about page 6 number 64 regarding the boat launch. We have changed that to a larger number and the town is not able to afford a boat launch. A concept plan will be needed with more accurate numbers. This needs to be lowered to \$20,000 or \$25,000 for the engineering

of the boat launch and move it to the future but the CAO recommends removing the boat launch altogether as we have other priorities that we need to focus on.

Matt spoke about all the capital requirements coming up and that we need to put money back into reserves and repay that money to the capital reserve.

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Saulnier and seconded by Councillor McCormick to approve the Capital Investment Plan and that the 2024/2025-year one Capital Budget as amended.

Motion Carried.

J. IN CAMERA

J.1 Legal

Motion:

Moved by Councillor McCormick and seconded by Councillor Turnbull that Council move IN Camera for legal.

Motion Carried.

Motion:

Moved by Councillor McCormick and seconded by Councillor Saulnier that Council moves out of In Camera for legal.

Motion Carried.

K. ADJOURNMENT

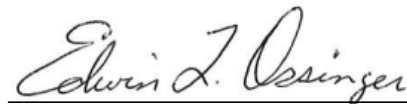
Motion:

Motion for adjournment moved by Councillor McCormick and seconded by Deputy Mayor Bartlett that the meeting be adjourned at 8:23 PM

Motion Carried.



Mayor



Clerk