

**DIGBY TOWN COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
August 6, 2024  
Council Chambers**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mayor Ben Cleveland, 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:** Deputy Mayor Mike Bartlett, Vice Chair

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Cleveland called the meeting to order at 5:57pm

**B. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**B.1** None

**C. AGENDA**

**C.1 Additions/Deletions**

None

**C.2 Approval**

**Additions to agenda F.3 Public Works Project update H.3 Correspondence to Council H.3 Clare Shopper I.2 Victoria Street Mobile Home I.3 Racquette Pond**

**MOTION:**

***Moved by Councillor Turnbull and seconded by Councillor Saulnier that the agenda for August 6, 2024, be approved with additions.***

**Motion Carried**

**D. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

**D.1 Leona Mosher – Active Transportation**

Leona Mosher began her questions with a thanks to Allan Franklin on his presentation to the Council of the Whole on July 16, 2024 as they were duplicates of her concerns. Leona Mosher communicated that she wondered why no one seems to know about this Active Transportation Plan. Mayor Cleveland informed her that there were two public meetings held in support of garnering public input into the report. She also asked how far the work from the plan has currently gotten and the Mayor communicated that the plan was only step taken so far. Mayor Cleveland, Councillor Saulnier and the CAO communicated to her that the plan was not a formal work plan and that it was more of a guideline for future work that was to be done in the town. The plan itself was paid for through a federal grant and was to help inform the town to better future projects. There is simply no way the town could implement the whole plan due to the budget that would be needed. Leona Mosher asked if there would be a one-way street and if the town truly needed bike lanes. Mayor Cleveland communicated

that there is a need for bike lanes in the town as vehicle and gas costs continue to rise. Councillor Saulnier communicated that the plan was not instructing the town to do exactly what was described but was more in line with suggestions to keep in mind when designing projects. Mount Street is a good example of implementing the sidewalk design suggested in the plan. Leona thanked Council for their time.

#### **E. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

##### **E.1 July 2, 2024**

###### **MOTION:**

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

**Motion Carried**

#### **F. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES/UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

##### **F.1 Second and Final reading By Law Respecting Certain Exemptions from the Fire protection rate By-Law #2024-02**

###### **MOTION:**

***Moved by Councillor McCormick and seconded by Councillor Turnbull that Council gives second and final reading of By-Law #2024-02 a By-Law Respecting Certain Exemptions from the Fire protection rate.***

**Motion Carried**

##### **F.2 Draft-Road Trails Designation By-Law #2024-03**

The CAO communicated the addition to the By-Law from the Committee of the Whole meeting and added the statement that it can be reviewed from time to time. Councillor Saulnier wanted to see an addition to the By-law that a trigger was included so that the By-law had to be reviewed in six months time due to the fact that there may be a new sitting council very soon after this By-law is passed and he wanted there to be this trigger to make sure that the By-law addresses some possible concerns or issues that may arise after it is passed. Councillor Saulnier stated that there could be an enforcement issue not an ATV issue once the By-law is passed. Councillor McCormick was in agreement with the review but felt six months may be too soon. Mayor Cleveland suggested that perhaps the By-law should be tabled until the new council was voted in. The CAO said that was also an option. Mayor communicated that there are already people communicated to him that this By-law has taken a long time to be agreed on. Councillor Turnbull suggested to table it for the new council. After continued discussions, it was agreed to amend the By-law and to add that it would be reviewed six months from the day of enactment. There was an agreement on the wording of this adjustment and the motion was put forward.

###### **MOTION:**

***Moved by Councillor McCormick and seconded by Councillor Turnbull that By-law #2024-03 Road Trails Designation By-law, with amendment for a six-month review, be given first reading.***

**Motion Carried**

##### **F.3 Public Works Project Briefs**

Councillor Saulnier would like there to be more information communicated on the current capital projects that are ongoing in the town citing the Mount Street project as an example. The Mayor suggested that the Committee of the Whole meeting could use the town Capital Budget as a guide for being briefed on where the projects currently stood and would allow questions to be asked at that time. This was agreed on by the councillors that it would be helpful to have that information so they

could answer questions from the public. It was also noted how well used the new town public washrooms were being used.

## **G. STAFF REPORTS**

### **G.1 Chief Administrative Officer**

The CAO provided a report for council. Councillor Saulnier asked when the guardrails would be going up on the completed Shore Road project. The CAO communicated that a new guard rail needed to be ordered for the upstream side and that the old guardrail would be installed on the bay side, both of which would be done by Public Works. It was also communicated that the flooding that occurred in July has been referred to our insurers and a meeting with the Adjuster was happening this week.

### **G.2 Committee of the Whole**

#### **MOTION:**

***Moved by Councillor Saulnier and seconded by Councillor McCormick that the First Advance Polling date for the 2024 Municipal Election for the Town of Digby election be set for Saturday, October 12, 2024.***

**Motion Carried**

### **G.3 Digby Area Recreation Commission Reports**

DARC provided a report to council. There was a consensus that the new Splash-park is getting a lot of use. Councillor Saulnier communicated that he would like to see more detail in the DARC reports and sighted the example of the washroom still not being completed and no date for completion being absent from the report. He also communicated that with the amount of funding that the town provides DARC, he would like to see and someone from DARC attend Committee of the Whole meetings on a quarterly basis, similar to the expectations of the Staff Sergeant from the RCMP to visit and provides answers on a regular basis.

### **G.4 Returning Officer Report**

#### **MOTION:**

***Moved by Councillor Saulnier and seconded by Councillor Turnbull that the Amended List of electors for the October 19,2024, Municipal Election be set for August 28, 2024.***

**Motion Carried**

### **G.5 Planning Advisory Committee Report**

#### **MOTION:**

***Moved by Councillor McCormick and seconded by Councillor Saulnier that the Town of Digby enter into a Development Agreement with L.B.M. Fisheries Limited to permit the development of a new residential dwelling on Lot 222 along Shore Road (PID 30382816) as detailed in the application dated June 18, 2024.***

**Motion Carried**

## **H. CORRESPONDENCE**

### **H.1 Letter – RCMP Assistant Commissioner Dennis Daley**

Does not appear, at this time, that anyone from council will be attending the Official Apology ceremony in North Preston.

## **H.2 Letter Writing Process**

Councillor Saulnier would like to be copied when a letter from Council that has been requested is sent. Then councillors are aware that the letter has gone out. Mayor Cleveland communicated that if there is a letter in our meeting package, then that identifies that a letter has been sent.

## **H.3 Letter Request to Clare Shopper**

Councillor Saulnier requested that a letter be sent to the Clare Shopper to ensure that their process has been updated and that any ads being placed for the Town are verified that the ads is actually from the Town. Municipality of Digby had an issue this week where a private citizen placed an ad was not officially from the Municipality and provided misleading and inaccurate information.

## **I. NEW BUSINESS**

### **I.1 Brock University-Internet Voting Study**

The Returning Officer explained the request from this study to add an exit survey to the phone and electronic electing process and that would generate a report for us after the fact. It was discussed by council and there was agreement that the election process needs to remain simple, unfettered and free of any extras. Councillor Saulnier communicated that voting must be the only that that a towns person does. Council instructed the Returning Officer to thank the study but that we would not be moving forward with their request.

### **I.2 Victoria Street**

Councillor Saulnier requested that the grass at this location be mowed. Mayor Cleveland asked how close to heading to market the property was. The CAO communicated that there were a few odds and ends but that it should be ready to go by the end of next week. The CAO also communicated that the Digby Area Community Navigator inquired as to whether the town would be interested in renting the unit out to medical staff that may be moving to the town, on a short-term basis. Council agreed that the original plan was to sell the property to an individual who could not afford to enter the current real estate market and that council agreed to stick to that original plan. There was also agreement that shrubs and foliage to added to the property.

### **I.3 Racquette pond/fountain**

Councillor McCormick asked if it was feasible to create a welled area around the fountain in order to allow the fountain to continue to operate when there was a lack of water or an overabundance of mud within the pond. There was a discussion on what was feasible in making that area work when there are issues with water flow and flooding. Council agreed that there had been an investment made and that there should be a solution looked at so the pond can continue to operate regularly.

## **J. IN-CAMERA**

### **J.1 Legal**

None

## **K. Adjournment**

### **Motion to Adjourn**

***Moved by Councillor Turnbull and seconded by Councillor McCormick at 7:04pm***

**Motion Carried.**



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Mayor

*Elwin J. Ossinger*  
Clerk