

**DIGBY TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
December 2, 2024
Council Chambers**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Mike Bartlett
Deputy Mayor Paul Saulnier
Councillor William McCormick
Councillor Shane Weir
Councillor Rick Foote

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

REGRETS:

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Bartlett called the meeting to order at 6:00pm

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

C. AGENDA

C.1 Additions/Deletions

None

C.2 Approval

MOTION:

Moved by Councillor McCormick and seconded by Deputy Mayor Saulnier that the agenda for December 2, 2024, be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

D. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

D.1 None

E. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

E.1 November 6, 2024

One typo was noted and will be corrected.

MOTION:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Saulnier and seconded by Councillor McCormick that the Minutes of November 6, 2024, be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

F. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

F.1 None.

G. STAFF REPORTS

G.1 Mayor Report

Mayor Bartlett has prepared a report for the Council this is to provide the Council with keeping everyone informed. The mayor has been working on a boat launch for the port area. To make an area more accessible some gravel or class A would be required this might be an easy way for folks to access the water the mayor has been speaking to Ed Chisholm from the Port as well. The most recent vandalism incidents on West Street were also discussed with the RCMP and an arrest was made.

G.2 Chief Administrative Officer Report

November has proven to be another busy month the CAO is reporting he has attended lots of meeting and had many appointments; post election reporting and other Development Agreement Inquires. Mount Street upgrade project the contractor has completed the work at this point and landscaping will be commence in the spring. The CAO attended the Valley Waste/Kings Transit meeting they discussed funding model options and governance model the information shared was confidential at this time and no details will be discussed until a governance model and funding options have been approved. ERP Implementation and Circular Materials agreements Nova Scotia and other provinces in adapting a new approach to recycling that will result in more efficient process for curbside recycling and will enable a greener future for Nova Scotians. The approach called Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging, paper product and packaging-like products it will shift responsibility for curbside recycling programs from municipalities to the producer of packaging and paper products. Regulations to address systemic hate, inequity, racism/accessibility plans municipalities and villages will be the first public bodies required to develop plans under ground-breaking provincial legislation. The Province will be funding 1.18 million to provide resources and supports over the next four years to assist in developing and implementing their equity and anti-racism plans.

G.3 Committee of the Whole

There are two recommendations coming forward from the Committee of the Whole Meeting.

MOTION:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Saulnier and seconded by Councillor McCormick that Council approves the priority resolution for the GRID Grant Application for Thomas Road.

Motion Carried

MOTION:

Moved by Councillor Weir and seconded by Deputy Mayor Saulnier that Council approves \$325.00 for prizes for the holiday decorating contest.

Motion Carried.

G.4 Digby Area Recreation Commission Report

Deputy Mayor Saulnier attend the DARC Meeting on November 20, 2024. Mostly recently there was a fire set in the public washroom it was cleaned up and the washroom was closed for the season.

H. CORRESPONDENCE

H.1 Ocean 11

Correspondence was received regarding mediation in treaty fishing right and elvers quota allocation the Municipality of the District of Yarmouth is asking if we have interest in joining together once again to discuss continuing, and revitalizing the advocacy work collectively undertaken on the file and if so how? The CAO asked Council if this was something we wish to be part of once again, Deputy Mayor Saulnier felt the work done in the past was good, Councillor McCormick felt that perhaps reaching out to Bear River First Nations to discuss might be a good path forward as well. The Council directed the CAO to reach out to Bear River First nations.

H.2 Staff Sgt. Grant Ryland

Correspondence was received regarding a tour of RCMP HQ in Dartmouth likely in January. Council was interested in touring the facility but have asked the Office of the CAO to ask for a tentative date for the tour.

I. NEW BUSINESS

I.1 Administrative Policy #2024-03 Code of Conduct

This policy is coming forward for it has been discussed for some time now and will be required by all Municipalities across NS.

Motion:

Moved by Councillor McCormick and seconded by Deputy Mayor Saulnier that Council adopt Administrative Policy #2024-03 Code of Conduct as presented.

Motion Carried.

I.2 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence

Information item this now starts the 16 days of Activism against gender violence and Council has received purple ribbons to wear in recognition of this.

I.3 Conway Workshop Association

The CAO was directed to meet with the Conway Workshop to discuss the letter received in October, a meeting was held they are seeking a reduction in taxes for the Digby Bargan Bin. The bin does not receive any provincial or federal funding for the operations, and they are operating as a Register Charity. The reduction if approved by Council would change the Assessment from Commercial tax to Residential tax this would apply only to the base rate and not any area rates in place. The effective date would be April 1, 2025. The Council directed the CAO to draft a policy that would allow this change for the Digby Bargan Bin.

I.4 Nicole and Peter Lockerbie

Correspondence was received by the CAO regarding interest in purchasing the property adjacent to their property on Racquette Road thus being the unopened section of Third Avenue from the railroad to the Racquette Road. Council discussed the letter and asked the CAO to provide a more detailed map of the area at the upcoming Committee of the Whole Meeting.

Councillor McCormick asked about working with Communities in Bloom for the Mount Street project in the green space and plant tulips it would be a great opportunity to enhance the street further. The Public Works department is planning for landscaping in the spring.

J. IN-CAMERA

J.1 Personnel

Motion:

Moved by Councillor McCormick and seconded by Councillor Foote that Council moves to IN Camera for Personnel.

Motion Carried.

The Council moved out of In Camera session.

K. Adjournment

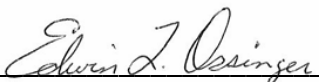
Motion to Adjourn

Moved by Councillor McCormick and seconded by Councillor Weir at 8:17 pm

Motion Carried.



Mayor



Clerk