

**DIGBY TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday January 4, 2022
Council Chambers**

MEMBERS PRESENT: 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: Mayor Ben Cleveland

A. CALL TO ORDER

Deputy Mayor Bartlett 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.1 Covid-19 and J.2 Community Development Coordinator and one addition to the Agenda under In Camera K.1 Personnel.

C.2 Approval

Motion

***Moved by Councillor Turnbull and seconded by Councillor Saulnier that the Agenda for January 4, 2022 be approved with two additions under New Business J.1 Covid-19 and J.2 Community Development Coordinator and one addition under In Camera K.1 Personnel.
Motion Carried.***

D. DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

D.1 MP Chris D'Entremont

Deputy Mayor Bartlett welcomed our MP here tonight the plan was to meet in person however with the recent rise in Covid-19 cases it safer to meet virtually for now. MP D'Entremont spoke about the Student grant that opened today if we plan to make application or know of anyone who is applying let the MP's Office know about it that is helpful in the review process of the applications. The MP spoke about the lobster fisheries dispute and there seems to be discussion and a desire to work together very positive steps. Deputy Mayor Bartlett asked if the Student Grant Application information would be available to share and the MP will make sure that social media has it and for those who have applied in the past they should also be receiving an email about the opening of the application process. Councillor Saulnier spoke about the drug issues and

the drug arriving into the area with the current state of the detachment with no Staff Sargent and the funding of the detachment for a specific number of members and that doesn't seem to be happening and we are paying a lot of money for policing and the service just isn't there. The MP said that we are not the only ones with these type of concerns. The MP is drafting a letter to the Minister of Public Safety and he will include us in that correspondence. The MP spoke about the costs for policing around the recent fisheries issues in the St. Mary's Bay and the MP is hoping that those costs are absorbed by the Federal Government. Affordable housing is an issue with the recent increase in housing prices it makes it hard or impossible for some to be able to afford to buy a home. The recent announcement on the loss of HMCS Acadia will have an economic spin off for the area the MP has been speaking with the Minister responsible and she is actually from the valley the MP is trying to organize a meeting with her to discuss the announcement. This will have impact on the area due to a 1.3 million dollar payroll for ABCC. Federal Wage subsidies for business affected by Covid-19 was discussed along with the subsidies being issued to the business rather than the individual there is a federal announcement coming tomorrow so there maybe something to come from that. Deputy Mayor Bartlett expressed his appreciation to MP D'Entremont for taking the time to speak to us and wished the MP congratulations on his recent appointment.

E. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

E.1 December 6, 2021

Motion:

Moved by Councillor McCormick and seconded by Councillor Turnbull that the Minutes of December 6, 2021 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 CAO provided Council with a request that Conservative Leader Erin O'Toole would like to meet with Mayor's/ Wardens and CAO's relating to the lobster fisheries file and is planning to meet the second week of January more to come. The CAO has decided to not pursue the position for the Community Development Coordinator position. The Racquette Road project is completed and it appears that we will be saving a bit of money from the original bid. The CAO also spoke about the Canada Summer Jobs that has recently opened we will be reapplying for the same as we had in the previous year however that is not always a given that we will receive all that we ask for.

G.2 Digby Area Recreation Commission Report

The Digby Area Recreation Commission reports are in the package. Councillor Turnbull spoke about the closure of the facility due to the most recent outbreak of Covid-19 it was decided to close the arena to the public until at least January 12, 2022 and perhaps longer we will see what comes from the Provincial announcement tomorrow.

G.3 Digby and Area Tourism Association

The DATA report was distributed in the meeting package.

G.4 Committee of the Whole

There is one recommendation coming forward from the Committee of the Whole.

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Turnbull and seconded by Councillor McCormick that the Digby Marketing and Promotions Levy By-law #2022-01 receive first reading.

Motion Carried.

The next step is to advertise the notice of intent to adopt a by law that has to be in a local paper and will likely be next week in the Tri County Vanguard and then it will come forward for second and final reading at the February Council Meeting.

H. CORRESPONDENCE

H.1 None.

I. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

I.1 None.

J. NEW BUSINESS

J.1 Covid-19

The CAO spoke about other Municipal units around us closing to the public and just today the Municipality of Digby closed. The CAO meet with administration staff today to discuss any concerns that they may have around the most recent outbreak of Covid-19 the good things is that we don't have a ton of traffic into the building and those who do enter are respectful the staff and the CAO feel that keeping the doors open is important there are small changes that can be made such as limiting the access to the second floor through the main office door. Perhaps exploring the options for an air exchange system might be something that can be explored and covered through the Covid-19 grant money however renovations are not something that we can spend that Covid-19 money on we will have to explore that option further. Councillor Turnbull asked about committee meetings are we still able to hold those types of meetings here in this building at the present time we are just waiting to see what restrictions might becoming down tomorrow however if we are able to social distance and remain at least 6 feet apart and wear masks we should be fine. We do have the ability to offer Zoom to delegations who wish to present. It was suggested that we do tracking of those who enter the building for meetings etc. It is most unfortunate that not much guidance is coming to us from Municipal Affairs.

J.2 Community Development Coordinator

Deputy Mayor Bartlett added this to the agenda due to concerns that at the last meeting it was discussed and then moved on. This position is needed we are short staffed and staff are doing what they can off the end of the desk but the proper person in this position could pay of itself and make huge strides in improving the town there are so many programs out there that we are missing out on we should be starting the advertising process now so that we have the time to select the correct person for a position like this. If we look at all of the things that are happening in the Town of Yarmouth we know that they have a person who is dedicated to this process and that is why we are seeing huge things happening in that town.

Motion:

Moved by Councillor McCormick and seconded by Councillor Saulnier that the Community Development Coordinator position move forward as discussed.

Motion Carried.

The CAO provided an update to the Council on the two unsightly premise order for the two sites from the Committee of the Whole Meeting as of today there orders have not been executed and no clean-up has been done at either of these locations. Today the Administrator has requested a local towing company to remove the derelict vehicles and Digby Salvage and Disposal has been contacted to do the cleanup at the property.

K. IN CAMERA

K.1 Personnel

Motion:

Moved by Councillor McCormick and seconded by Councillor Turnbull that Council move In Camera for Personnel.

Motion Carried.

Motion:

Moved by Councillor McCormick and seconded by Councillor Saulnier that the Council move out of In Camera session.

Motion Carried.

L. ADJOURNMENT

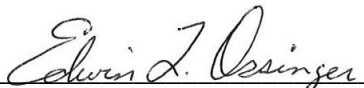
Motion:

Motion for adjournment was moved by Councillor Turnbull and seconded by Councillor Saulnier at 7:35 P.M.

Motion Carried.



Mayor



Clerk