

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

The Inaugural Session of the Municipal Council of the Municipality of the County of Colchester was held in the Courthouse, Truro, Nova Scotia, on Thursday, October 27, 2016.

The meeting was called to order by the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), Mr. Rob Simonds.

Roll Call

The roll was called with the following Councillors in attendance:

Mayor-Elect Christine Blair, Chair	
Councillor-Elect Eric Boutilier	District 1
Councillor-Elect Bill Masters	District 2
Councillor-Elect Geoff Stewart	District 3
Councillor-Elect Mike Cooper	District 4
Councillor-Elect Lloyd Gibbs	District 5
Councillor-Elect Karen MacKenzie	District 6
Councillor-Elect Michael Gregory	District 7
Councillor-Elect Ron Cavanaugh	District 8
Councillor-Elect Doug MacInnes	District 9
Councillor-Elect Tom Taggart	District 10
Councillor-Elect Wade Parker	District 11

Also Present

Mr. Rob Simonds, Chief Administrative Officer
 Ms. Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works
 Mr. Wayne Wamboldt, Director of Solid Waste
 Mr. Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services
 Mr. Dennis James, Municipal Solicitor
 Ms. Tracey Veno, Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary

Recap of 2016 Municipal Election

Referring to his memorandum to Council dated October 21, 2016, the CAO presented a recap of the results of the Municipal Election held on October 15th.

Swearing in of Mayor

The CAO administered the Oath of Allegiance and Office to Mayor-Elect Christine Blair.

Swearing in of Councillors

Mayor Blair administered the Oath of Allegiance and Office to each of the Councillors.

Election of Deputy Mayor

Mayor Blair called for nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor.

Councillor Stewart moved and Councillor Cooper seconded the nomination of Councillor Masters. Councillor Masters accepted the nomination.

Mayor Blair called three times for further nominations and, on hearing none, the nominations ceased.

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That Councillor Masters be declared Deputy Mayor for a two-year term.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Election of Alternate Council Committee Chair

Mayor Blair called for nominations for the position of Alternate Council Committee Chair.

Councillor Boutilier moved and Deputy Mayor Masters seconded the nomination of Councillor Cooper. Councillor Cooper accepted the nomination.

Councillor Parker moved and Councillor Taggart seconded the nomination of Councillor MacInnes. Councillor MacInnes accepted the nomination.

Mayor Blair called three times for further nominations and, on hearing none, the nominations ceased.

Council appointed Mr. Dennis James, Municipal Solicitor as scrutineer for the counting of ballots.

Following the counting of the ballots, Councillor Cooper was declared Alternate Council Committee Chair for a one-year term.

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That Council authorizes the CAO to destroy the ballots used in the election of the Alternate Council Committee Chair.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor MacInnes
Seconded by Councillor Parker

“That the agenda be approved with the following amendments:

- Add Item # 6b, Report and Recommendation from the Tatamagouche Water Utility Committee;
- Add Item # 12b, Recognition of Service to the County by Bob Taylor;
- Add Item # 12c, Debert and Tatamagouche Water Utility Budgets – Authority for November Committee to Approve; and

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- Add Item # 12d, Appointment of Nominating Committee.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Standing Committee Reports and Recommendations

Tatamagouche Water Utility Committee Report from meeting held on October 26, 2016

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Masters

“That Council approves that the April 2016 Creamery Square Association water bill in the amount of \$515.92 plus interest, be written off; and,

That a letter be sent to the Creamery Square Association advising that any future requests for water shut off must be made in writing to the County office.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

Provincial Orientation Session

The CAO advised that the Department of Municipal Affairs is hosting an orientation session for new Councillors on November 9-10, 2016, at the Holiday Inn in Truro. Council approval is required for participants to attend.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That Council authorizes the attendance of Councillor Boutilier and Councillor Taggart at the Provincial Orientation Session on November 9-10, 2016.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Council Orientation Session

The CAO advised that an orientation session is also being planned which will be more specific to our County. No dates have been set yet for this session and staff is seeking input from Council on possible dates.

Moved by Councillor MacInnes
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That December 6, 2016, be set for the Council Orientation Session with a start time of 6 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

- Art Selection Committee** Staff is seeking two members of Council to sit on the Art Selection Committee for the 29th Annual Art Show.
- Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Gregory
- “That Councillor MacInnes and Mayor Blair be reinstated as members of the Art Selection Committee for 2016.”
- Motion Carried Unanimously.
- Dates for Council Christmas Dinner** Staff is seeking Council directive on venue and dates for the Council Christmas Dinner.
- Moved by Councillor Cooper
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Masters
- “That the Council Christmas dinner be held at the Debert Hospitality Centre with dates to be determined on availability by the Centre.”
- Motion Carried Unanimously.
- Staff were directed to get back to Council via email with available dates.
- J Class Paving** The Director of Public Works advised that the province is now accepting requests for the cost shared paving of J Class Streets for the 2017/18 fiscal year and is seeing feedback from Council regarding streets to be paved under the J Class Paving Program.
- Moved by Councillor Parker
Seconded by Councillor Boutilier
- “That the following streets be added to the list for the cost shared paving of J Class Streets: McCallum/Hillridge/Hillvale; Burris Drive; Vernon Drive; Fox Hill Drive; Sillery Drive; McCabe Street; and Susan Court.”
- Motion Carried Unanimously.
- The Director of Public Works indicated that Council would be required to prioritize the list of streets. It was agreed that McCallum/Hillridge/Hillvale should be on the top of the list if the petition process is successful.
- The Director of Public Works indicated that Council could set priorities after feedback is received from the province on what

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monies are available in the budget for J Class Streets. It was suggested that the Director of Public Works investigate the condition of the streets and report back to Council with suggested priorities.

**Award of Tender for
Balefill Service Truck**

Councillor Parker declared a conflict of interest on this matter and removed himself from the table.

Council previously included funds in the Five Year Capital Plan for fiscal 2016/17 for the purchase of a replacement ¾ tonne truck for the Balefill Facility. A tender was issued on September 8, 2016 with a closing date of October 7, 2016. Three bids were received and were within budget.

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That Council authorizes the Director of Solid Waste to accept the lowest bid of \$35,945.55, including HST, as submitted by Hollis Ford; and,

That the current service vehicle be retained to sell privately prior to expiry of the current safety certificate.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

At this point, Councillor Parker returned to the table.

**Recognition of Service to
the County by Bob Taylor**

Deputy Mayor Masters indicated that past practice of the County is to recognize former members of Council, and inquired as to the plans to recognize Bob Taylor for his 19 years of service.

Discussion was held regarding the policy that recognizes staff, and Council suggested that it would be appropriate to have a similar policy which would acknowledge former members of Council. Staff were directed to look into a policy to bring back to Council for consideration. Staff were also directed to organize a function to recognize Bob Taylor at a future meeting.

**Debert and Tatamagouche
Water Utility Budgets –
Authority for November
Committee to Approve**

The CAO advised that annually Council approves three year operating budgets for the Debert and Tatamagouche Water Utilities. Staff are in the process of finalizing the documentation for the three year operating budgets and are requesting that Council grant authority for Council Committee to approve the budgets at their November 10, 2016 meeting. Additionally, staff will be seeking approval to proceed with a rate review for the Tatamagouche Water Utility.

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor MacInnes

“That Council authorizes Council Committee, at their meeting on November 10, 2016, to approve the Three Year Operating Budgets for the Debert and Tatamagouche Water Utilities; and,

That staff be authorized to proceed with a rate review for the Tatamagouche Water Utility.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Appointment of Nominating Committee

The CAO indicated that the Council Proceeding Policy stipulates that the appointment of the Nominating Committee is done at the November Council session post election. However, in previous years, it has been carried out at the Inaugural Session in October.

The options for appointment of the Nominating Committee are to have Council appoint the Mayor to Nominating Committee and authorize the Mayor to appoint three additional Council members; or, Council can elect the members to the Nominating Committee.

Moved by Councillor MacInnes
Seconded by Councillor MacKenzie

“That Council appoints Mayor Blair to the Nominating Committee and authorizes Mayor Blair to appoint three additional Council members to the Nominating Committee.”

Motion **Defeated.**

(Deputy Mayor Masters, Councillors Stewart, Cooper, Gibbs, Gregory, Cavanaugh and Taggart opposed)

Discussion on adhering to Policy was held, specifically section 37 of the Council Proceedings Policy, which refers to the appointment of the Nominating Committee being at the November Council meeting following a general election. It was noted that the reason for dealing with the appointment of the Nominating Committee at the Inaugural Session is to accelerate the process of appointments to the various Committees. It was suggested that the current Policy be changed to clearly address this.

The Municipal Solicitor advised that as a matter of course, Council should adhere to policy. A compromise would be to grant November Committee the authority to approve or appoint the Nominating Committee at November Council with authority granted to December Committee to approve the Committee appointments.

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Council debated the options of appointing the Mayor to the Committee and authorizing the Mayor to appoint the remaining members or having Council elect the members of the Committee. It was noted that whatever the decision regarding the appointment of the Nominating Committee, Council should keep in mind that the Nominating Committee makes recommendations to Council and the final decision rests with Council.

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Alternate Chair and Councillor Stewart be appointed to the Nominating Committee.”

Motion Carried.
(Councillors Parker and MacKenzie opposed)

Staff were directed to come back to Council with Policy revisions for Council consideration.

Referring to the Action Item distributed on table, the CAO indicated that staff have prepared a list of Committees for Council members to review and advise staff of the Committees of interest to them. Additionally, there is also opportunity for Council to review the Committees with the possibility of collapsing those that no longer are required.

Correspondence - ACTION

There was no Action Correspondence received for this evening’s meeting.

Correspondence - INFORMATION

Building Inspector

A copy of the Building Permit Statistics received from the Building Inspector for the month of September 2016. Council agreed to receive the report for information purposes.

Development Officer

A copy of the Development Activity Report received from the Development Officer for the month of September 2016. Council agreed to receive the report for information purposes.

INFORMATION ITEMS

**Nova Scotia
Transportation and
Infrastructure Renewal
Salt Marsh Project**

Nova Scotia Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (NSTIR) has purchased a piece of land north of the Salmon River between Highway 102 and North River. The purpose for purchasing the land is to create a salt marsh bank for NSTIR. Continued review with the Department of Agriculture is being carried out to further define the

work necessary to retreat the dykes in the area and to ultimately create 100 acres of salt marsh.

As the project progresses, the Municipality and the Town of Truro may be asked to provide input in terms of new dyke locations as well as public education and location of any new trails in the area.

No requests for financial input have been received from the province thus far. NSTIR will be applying for funding for this project through the National Disaster Mitigation Program.

The Department of Agriculture is currently preparing a project overview which will be circulated to Council once completed.

UNSM Fall Conference

Information on the UNSM Fall Conference was circulated in the Council package. Staff are requesting that the information be reviewed and members of Council wishing to attend the Conference are to notify the Administration Office by November 1st to ensure early bird registration rates and confirm rooms for those wishing to stay.

CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That the meeting go into closed session at 9:10 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That the meeting reconvene in open session at 10:10 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Governance Structure – Regional Economic Development

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Parker

“That Council approves entering into a three year pilot project with the identified funding partners based upon the Concept of Operations as presented to Council; and,

That Council direct the CAO to finalize the draft Inter-Municipal Agreement with the identified funding partners and that the agreement be reviewed by the Municipal Solicitor prior to being brought back to Council for formal ratification.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the meeting adjourn at 10:21 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Tracey Veno
Recording Secretary