

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

The Regular Session of the Municipal Council of the Municipality of the County of Colchester was held in the Courthouse, Truro, Nova Scotia, on Thursday, November 30, 2017.

Roll Call

The roll was called with the following Councillors in attendance:

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

Staff Present

Rob Simonds, Chief Administrative Officer
 Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works
 Crawford Macpherson, Director of Community Development
 Wayne Wamboldt, Director of Solid Waste
 Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services
 Mark Austin, Acting Economic Development Officer
 Tracey Venno, Recording Secretary
 Devin Trefry, Acting Research, Policy and Community Engagement Officer

Service Recognition

Mayor Blair and Rob Simonds, CAO, presented employees with awards in recognition of years of service with the Municipality. 2017 recognized 4 employees for 5 years of service; 9 employees with 10 years of service; 4 employees for 15 years of service; 2 employees with 20 years of service; and, 1 employee for 25 years of service.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Parker
 Seconded by Deputy Mayor Masters

“That the agenda for November 30, 2017 be approved with the following amendments:

- Add Item #6(2), Report from Nominating Committee;
- Add Item #15b, FCM;
- Add Item #16b, High Speed Internet;
- Add Item #19b, Contract Negotiations in Closed Session.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
 Seconded by Councillor Parker

“That the minutes of the meetings held on October 26 and November 6, 2017, be approved as presented.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Business Arising from Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes of the meetings held on October 26 and November 6, 2017.

Standing Committee Reports and Recommendations

Council Committee Report from Meeting Held on November 16, 2017

Deputy Mayor Masters, Chair, presented the report from the Council Committee meeting held on November 16, 2017:

Halifax Cheer Elite Event – Request for Funding

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Council approves funding in the amount of \$2,500 for the Halifax Cheer Elite Cheerleading Provincials being held April 21, and 22, 2018; and,

That source of funds be from Economic Development Grants 2017-18.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

FCM 2018 Annual Conference

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That Council approves all Council members wishing to attend the FCM 2018 Annual Conference being held in Halifax be permitted to do so.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Nominating Committee Report from Meeting Held on November 30, 2017

Dangerous and Unsightly Premises Committee

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That Council appoints Councillor Cavanaugh as Chair and Councillor Boutilier as Vice Chair of the Dangerous and Unsightly Premises Committee.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Lafarge Brookfield Cement Plant Community Liaison Committee

Moved by Councillor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That Council appoints Deputy Mayor Masters to serve as the Council representative on the Lafarge Brookfield Cement Plant Community Liaison Committee.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

Public Washroom, Fundy Discovery Site – Authority to Approve

Moved by Councillor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That Council authorizes Council Committee at its meeting on December 14, 2017, to consider options and decide on an approach to establish a public washroom facility at the Fundy Discovery Site.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Granville Drive Street Lights

Ms. Newell, Director of Public Works, advised that this item relates to a request for street lights at the re-aligned portion of Granville Drive.

Staff visited the site noting that the intersection itself is quite dark. Review of the tax accounts indicated that the properties on Granville Drive and surrounding areas pay a street light rate on their tax bills to fund the existing street lights.

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That Council direct staff to have a street light installed at the intersection of Granville Drive and West North River Road, on the existing pole east of West North River Road, with source of funds being the existing street light area rate for Granville Drive and surrounding areas.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Half Ton Truck Purchase – Authority to Award

Moved by Councillor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Pash

“That Council authorizes Council Committee at its meeting on December 14, 2017, to award the tender for a new half ton truck to be used for water utility services as well as Debert maintenance activities.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Debert Water Tower Project – Authority for December Committee to Award

Moved by Councillor Boutilier
Seconded by Councillor Parker

“That Council authorizes Council Committee at its meeting on December 14, 2017, to award the contract for the design and installation of the new Debert Water System Controls.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Debert Water Utility Three
Year Operating Budget –
Authority to Approve**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Council authorizes Council Committee at its meeting on December 14, 2017, to approve the Three-Year Debert Water Utility Budget.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Tatamagouche Water Utility
Three Year Operating Budget
– Authority to Approve**

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That Council authorizes Council Committee at its meeting on December 14, 2017, to approve the Three-Year Tatamagouche Water Utility Budget.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Revisions to the Grants to
Non-Profit and Economic
Development Grants Policies**

Mr. Mark Austin, Acting Economic Development Officer, provided a brief recap of previous discussions regarding granting policies, summarizing staff's understanding of Council's directive on policy changes. It was also noted that in addition to these changes, minor housekeeping changes were implemented to make the policies more consistent and understandable.

Clarification was sought on a few items previously discussed including:

1. Inclusion of proof of ownership for capital upgrades under the Grants to Non-profit Organizations Policy;
2. Under Section 3 of the Grants to Non-profit Organizations – removing the word primarily;
3. Inclusion of fundraising effort; and,
4. Presentation requirements/frequency.

Council agreed that the Grants to Non-profit Policy be amended to reflect numbers 1 and 2, as noted above.

Concern was expressed about the complexity of the process and making simple policies more confusing.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier
Seconded by Councillor Parker

“That Council adopts the revised Grants to Non-profit Organizations Policy, as amended; and,

That Council adopts the revised Economic Development Grants Policy, including the new title – Community Events Grants Policy, as presented; and,

That Council consider larger grant requests via presentations from organizations by staff-developed guidelines that reflect Council's presentation and eligibility requirements.”

Motion Carried.

(Councillor Stewart opposed)

Council Proceedings Policy

Referring to Section 10 of the Council Proceeding Policy which stipulates that meetings end no later than 11:00 pm, with review of the agenda at 9:30pm to determine if there is sufficient time to complete all items on the agenda, Councillor Boutilier raised the issue of the lateness of recent meetings and inquired about what could be done to improve on this. He also expressed concern with Councillors and staff having to travel after the meetings as well as for those having to work the following day.

Discussion was held on possible ways to avoid late meetings including refraining from adding items to agendas, staff presentations being held at Presentation meetings, number of times being permitted to speak on an issue and additions to the agenda being carried over if the meeting is too late. Further discussion was held regarding the need for well debated discussions and allowing opportunity for everyone to speak. It was agreed that the agenda progress be reviewed at 9:30 or 10:00 pm to determine if there is sufficient time to complete the agenda.

FCM

Councillor Taggart advised Council of a project being implemented by the FCM called the Jordan Municipal Support Project. The purpose of the project is to support municipalities in the Central and Southern regions of Jordan. There is an opportunity for the Municipality to host a delegation from Jordan, to share knowledge and experience, at no cost to the Municipality. If Council is interested, the deadline for the application to host is Sunday, December 17, 2017.

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That Council supports Councillor Taggart making an application to FCM for the Jordan Municipal Support Project and agrees to host a delegation from Jordan should the application be successful.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Correspondence - ACTION

Kendra MacKinnon, Acting Executive Director and Community Coordinator, Colchester Sexual Assault Centre

An email to the Mayor dated November 6, 2017 requesting a letter of support in accessing Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Services in Colchester.

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That Council approves writing a letter of support in accessing Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Services in Colchester.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Graham Long, Treasurer, Colchester Ground Search and Rescue

A letter to David Westlake, GIS Technician/Protective Services Coordinator requesting an increase in funding.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

"That the letter from Graham Long, Treasurer, Colchester Ground Search and Rescue, requesting an increase in funding be referred to the annual budget process."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Brian Holmes, Principal,
Tatamagouche Regional
Academy and Community
Leader**

A letter to the Mayor and Council requesting funding support for a community music project.

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

"That funding in the amount of \$750 be approved for the community music project as requested by Brian Holmes, Principal of the Tatamagouche Regional Academy and Community Leader."

Motion **DEFEATED**.

(Deputy Mayor Masters, Councillors Boutilier, Stewart, Parker, Pash and MacKenzie opposed)

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

"That an invitation be extended to Brian Holmes to make a presentation through the grant application process."

Motion **DEFEATED**.

(Mayor Blair, Deputy Mayor Masters, Councillors Boutilier, Stewart, Cooper, MacKenzie, Cavanaugh, Pash, Taggart and Parker opposed)

**Karen Ewing, Cobequid
Veterans Memorial Park
Society**

A letter to Mayor and Council requesting funding for a special project for monuments at the Cobequid Veterans Memorial Park.

Moved by Councillor Cooper
Seconded by Councillor Parker

"That the request for funding for a special project for monuments at the Cobequid Veterans Memorial Park be received for information."

Motion **DEFEATED**.

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

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

"That the Cobequid Veterans Memorial Park Society be invited to make a presentation to Council, at their earliest convenience, to clarify their ask and provide additional information to Council."

Motion Carried.

(Councillors Parker and Cooper opposed)

Brian Bartlett

A letter to Mayor and Council dated November 23, 2017 concerning the sauna at the RECC.

Moved by Councillor Cooper
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Masters

"That the letter concerning the sauna at the RECC be referred to the RECC Board."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Greg Watson, Manager, North Nova Forest Owners Co-op Ltd.

A letter to Colchester Council expressing interest in presenting to Council on wood chip energy for Nova Scotia.

Staff were directed to send Mr. Watson information on the Public Presentations to Council as well as the application to present.

David Atchison, AMA

An email dated November 29, 2017 regarding Bill 10, amendments to the Municipal Government Act.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

"That the email regarding Bill 10, amendments to the Municipal Government Act be referred to staff."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Correspondence - INFORMATION

Building Inspector

A copy of the Building Permit Statistics received from the Building Inspector for the month of October 2017. 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 October 2017. Council agreed to receive the report for information purposes.

Strategic Priorities

A copy of the Strategic Priorities Report from January and October 2017. Council agreed to receive the report for information purposes.

Matt Moore, RECC General Manager

A copy of a RECC Quarterly Report. Council agreed to receive the report for information purposes.

Michael Dolter, CAO, Town of Truro

A letter to the CAO regarding the Town's approval of the Fundy Discovery Site brand and logo. Council agreed to receive for information purposes.

INFORMATION ITEMS

High Speed Internet

Councillor Gregory requested an update on the status of high speed internet in rural Colchester indicating that he attended a Chamber breakfast in Tatamagouche where there were discussions on how to get business moving in the community. He met with a couple who specifically expressed concern regarding high speed internet.

Mr. Austin provided a brief update on the study of high speed internet in Colchester, but also reminded Council that ultimately, this is not within municipal jurisdiction. He offered to meet with the couple Councillor Gregory spoke with to provide them with information and options.

**Reports from Councillors
Appointed to Outside Boards
and Agencies**

Copies of reports from the Mayor and Councillors were circulated in the package or placed on table for this evenings meeting.

CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Taggart

“That the meeting go into closed session at 9:40 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That the meeting reconvene in open session at 10:35 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Bible Hill East Court Road
School**

Moved by Councillor Parker
Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That Council proceed to a Public Hearing for the sale of the Bible Hill East Court Road School to the Colchester Christian Academy, with conditions as recommended by the Executive and Audit Committee.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**CUPE 3945 Collective
Agreement**

Moved by Councillor Cooper
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Masters

“That Council grants authority to Council Committee, at their meeting on December 14, 2017, to approve the CUPE 3945 Collective Agreement, depending on response from Union; and.

That Non-Union annual salary increases for 2017 be approved at the same time.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Major Event

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That Council authorizes the Mayor and CAO to execute agreements as negotiated by staff to secure the major event discussed in Closed Session this evening.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Personnel Matter

Moved by Councillor Parker
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That Council approves the position of Executive Assistant be reclassified to that of Deputy Clerk/Executive Assistant; and,

That the salary for the Deputy Clerk/Executive Assistant be established at Range 7 and that the incumbent be placed at their corresponding step from Range 4 to Range 7, effective April 1, 2017; and,

That the above noted title change be reflected in an updated organizational structure and the duties for the blended roles be incorporated in an updated job description.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the meeting adjourn at 10:42 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Tracey Veno
Recording Secretary