

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

The Regular Session of the Municipal Council of the Municipality of the County of Colchester was conducted in-person and virtually combined, on Monday, November 25, 2024, at 6:00 pm.

In peace and in friendship, and in the spirit of truth and reconciliation, it was acknowledged that the Municipality of Colchester is in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq.

Roll Call

Mayor Christine Blair, Chair	
Councillor Paul Weatherby	District 1
Deputy Mayor Laurie Sandeson	District 2
Councillor Sheldon Richardson	District 3
Councillor Mike Cooper	District 4
Councillor Tim Johnson	District 5
Councillor Nigel Leggett	District 6
Councillor Sherry Martell	District 7
Councillor Lisa Patton	District 8
Councillor Marie Benoit	District 9
Councillor Charlene Fletcher	District 10
Councillor Allan Kennedy	District 11

Staff Present

Dan Troke, Chief Administrative Officer
 Michelle Boudreau, Director of Public Works
 Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services
 Phil Redden, Director of Solid Waste
 Paul Smith, Director of Community Development
 Dennis James, Municipal Solicitor
 Tracey Veno, Recording Secretary
 Devin Trefry, Research Policy, and Community Engagement Officer
 Jenn Martin, Economic Development Officer
 Tim Smith, Manager of Information Systems
 Craig Burgess, Recreation Manager

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Weatherby, seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the agenda be approved as presented.” Carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Martell, seconded by Councillor Kennedy

“That the minutes of the meeting held on October 30, 2024, be approved as presented.” Carried unanimously.

Business Arising from Minutes

None.

Standing Committee Reports and Recommendations

Deputy Mayor Sandeson, Chair of Council Committee, presented the report from the meeting held on November 14, 2024.

North Shore Recreation Centre – Floor Project

Moved by Deputy Mayor Sandeson, seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That Council approves the request from the North Shore Recreation Centre for additional overages of \$359,115.02 for the arena floor, with a cost to

the Municipality of approximately \$70,300 once grants, tax rebates and GICs have been received.” Carried Unanimously.

Funding Application, GRID Program

Moved by Deputy Mayor Sandeson, seconded by Councillor Martell

“That Council supports an application to the Growth and Renewal Infrastructure Development Program with the selected project being replacement of 833 metres of trunk sewer in Tatamagouche at an estimated project cost of \$1.3M.” Carried unanimously.

Funding Application, Green Municipal Fund Local Leadership for Climate Adaptation

Moved by Deputy Mayor Sandeson, seconded by Councillor Johnson

“That Council directs staff to apply for a funding opportunity from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities’ Local Leadership for Climate Adaptation Initiative for the development of a Corporate Climate Adaptation Plan.” Carried unanimously.

Code of Conduct

Moved by Deputy Mayor Sandeson, seconded by Councillor Martell

“That Council repeals the current Code of Conduct for Members of Council Policy and the Code of Conduct Complaints Policy; and,

By way of resolution, that Council adopts the *Code of Conduct for Municipal Elected Officials Regulations as set forth by the Province of Nova Scotia.*” Carried unanimously.

Nominating Committee – Report and Recommendations of meeting held on November 19, 2024

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That the Council members be appointed to the various boards and committees as outlined in the attached report.”

amending motion

Moved by Councillor Martell, seconded by Councillor Johnson

“That along with Mayor Blair, Councillor Cooper be appointed to serve on the Cliffs of Fundy Geopark Board instead of Deputy Mayor Sandeson.” Carried unanimously.

The amending motion having carried, the original motion was voted on and carried as amended.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That approval of the citizen appointments be tabled until the Nominating Committee has opportunity to review further expressions of interest for the vacant positions.” Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Deputy Mayor Sandeson

“That authority be granted to December 12, 2024, and January 16, 2025 Council Committee, to approve citizen appointments to boards/committees on recommendation of the Nominating Committee.” Carried unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

One Ton Crane Truck – Authority for December Committee to Award

Moved by Councillor Benoit, seconded by Councillor Johnson

“That Council authorizes December Council Committee to award the tender for the replacement of the One Ton Crane Truck for Public Works, if tenders exceed the approved capital budget.” Carried unanimously.

Debert Aviation Centre Roof Replacement – Authority for December Committee to Award

Moved by Councillor Benoit, seconded by Councillor Kennedy

“That Council authorizes December Council Committee to award the tender for the replacement of Debert Aviation Centre Roof if tenders exceed the approved capital budget.” Carried unanimously.

Code of Conduct Investigator – Authority for December Committee to Award

Moved by Councillor Leggett, seconded by Deputy Mayor Sandeson

“That Council authorizes December Council Committee to appoint a Code of Conduct Investigator.” Carried unanimously.

RECC – Request for Advance Payment

The Director of Corporate Services advised of a request received from the CEO of Central Nova Scotia Sport & Entertainment for an advance of the 4th quarter RECC payment. The budget would not be impacted by this request as the Municipality provides annual funding of \$750K and is budgeted accordingly. This is the second request for release of funds in advance due to cash flow issues.

Brief discussion was held on concerns of the observed cash flow issue and the possibility of writing a letter to inquire about plans to address the issue.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That Council approves the requested advance for the 4th quarter payment to the RECC; and,

That a letter be written to the Board about the observed cash flow issue.” Carried unanimously.

Correspondence – ACTION

Residents of Fairway Avenue

Petition for the installation of streetlights on Fairway Avenue.

Moved by Councillor Cooper, seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That the petition for a request for streetlight installation on Fairway Avenue be referred to staff; and,

That the open house requirement of the Local Improvement By-law be waived and that staff proceed with a mailout petition.” Carried unanimously.

Michele Meech, Rotary Club of Truro

Email dated November 6, 2024, regarding the 2025 Rotary Yearbook ad.

Mayor Blair and Deputy Mayor Sandeson declared a conflict of interest and recused themselves for this item.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor Weatherby

“That Council approves purchasing a one-third page ad on an annual basis unless Council decides otherwise.” Carried unanimously.

Allan Eddy

Email to Mayor Blair and Council concerning re-naming Half Moon Family Recreation Area in honour of Bruce Moore.

Moved by Councillor Leggett, seconded by Councillor Kennedy

“That the request for the re-naming of Half Moon Family Recreation Area be referred to staff.” Carried unanimously.

Diane Mailman

Correspondence dated September 24, 2024, requesting a crosswalk near the East End Mini Mart on East Prince Street.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Deputy Mayor Sandeson

“That the request for a crosswalk near the East End Mini Mart on East Prince Street be referred to staff to send to the Province for consideration.” Carried unanimously.

Correspondence - INFORMATION

Development Officer

A copy of the Development Activity Report for October 2024.

Building Inspector

A copy of Building Permit Statistics for October 2024

Moved by Councillor Benoit, seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the reports from the Development Officer and Building Inspector be received.” Carried unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Insurance for Not-for-Profit Organizations – Grant Applications

64 applications were received under the Insurance for Not-for-Profit Organizations Grant Program for 2024, coming in slightly under budget at \$33,665.50. One application received was ineligible for funding. The next deadline for applications under this program is October 24, 2025.

Reports from Councillors

Copies of reports from the Mayor and Councillors were circulated in the package and 'On Table' for this evening's meeting.

Referring to meetings held with Truro Outreach Society, interest was expressed on receiving a presentation from the group on the topic of homelessness. Staff will reach out to arrange for an upcoming presentation meeting night.

CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Councillor Benoit, seconded by Deputy Mayor Sandeson

"That the meeting go into closed session at 6:55 pm." Carried unanimously.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Sandeson, seconded by Councillor Cooper

"That the meeting reconvene in open session at 8:06 pm." Carried unanimously.

Property Matter

Moved by Councillor Leggett, seconded by Councillor Johnson

"That the covenants for the 6 Ventura Drive property remain in place, as discussed in closed session." Carried unanimously.

Colchester Courage

Moved by Councillor Martell, seconded by Councillor Richardson

"That Council approves the 2024 Colchester Courage Award nominations, as discussed in-camera." Carried unanimously.

Presentation of these awards is the January 16th Committee meeting.

Personnel Matter

Moved by Councillor Martell, seconded by Councillor Cooper

"That Council approves the salary increase for the CAO as discussed in-camera and that this increase be retroactive to September 25, 2024." Carried unanimously.

Other

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Deputy Mayor Sandeson

"That authority be granted to Council Committee at their meeting on December 12, 2024, to appoint the Chair of the Planning Advisory and Flood Advisory Committees." Carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Councillor Weatherby, the meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm.

Tracey Veno
Recording Secretary