



Truro Town Council Meeting
Monday, July 7, 2008
Council Chambers – Civic Building

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A regular public meeting of Truro Town Council was held on Monday, July 7, 2008 at 1 pm in the Council chambers of the Truro Civic Building.

Present: Deputy Mayor G. MacArthur, Councilors R. Tynes, C. Cox, D. Bennett-Cook, B. Kinsman and S. Byers.

Regrets: Mayor W.R. (Bill) Mills

In Attendance: CAO J. Langille, Director of Public Works A. MacKinnon, Director of Finance R. Putnam, Director of Planning J. Fox, Representing the Parks and Recreation Department F. Beshley, Police Chief D. MacNeil and Town Solicitor J. Rafferty

Approval of the Agenda

The CAO requested that the agenda as circulated be amended to include “1st Reading of the Local Improvements Bylaw” as item 5(d) and “Financial Statements” as item 10c.

On motion of Councilors D. Bennett-Cook and B. Kinsman, the agenda was approved as circulated. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

On motion of councilors S. Byers and B. Kinsman, the minutes of the Public Hearing June 9th and the Public Council Meetings held on June 9th and June 16th 2008 were approved as circulated. Motion carried.

Motions and Notices of Motions

Application for a Development Agreement – 373 Prince Street RCMP

At a Public Hearing prior to the Council meeting, Council heard the presentation from the Director of Planning for Council to consider enter a Development Agreement with the RCMP to create a parking area on their property at 373 Prince Street. Council also heard a presentation from Mr. Allan Hensley of 367 Prince Street. The Planning Advisory Committee concurred with the opinion of the Director of Planning to consider approval of the draft agreement.

On motion of Councilors S. Byers and D. Bennett-Cook it was moved that Council enter into a Development Agreement with the RCMP to permit the development of a Parking lot at 373 Prince Street to support the RCMP Communications Centre at 379 Prince Street including necessary fencing and storm water management as recommended by the Director of Planning. Motion carried.

It was noted that there is a 14 day appeal period on this approval.

PAC Application – 29 Victoria Street

Council received a recommendation from the Planning Advisory Committee to set a Public Hearing date to consider an application from C. Creelman to enter a Development Agreement to Construct a 12 Unit Building at 29 Victoria Street and to convert an existing building to three units.

It was moved by Councilors D. Bennett-Cook and B. Kinsman that the request for a Development Agreement for 29 Victoria Street be heard at a Public Hearing set for August 11, 2008 at 1 pm. Motion carried.

Application to Demolish – Heritage District

A letter was received from Mr. C. Creelman for permission to demolish a building in the Heritage District at 29 Victoria Street.

It was moved by councilors S. Byers and C. Bennett- Cook that this request be placed on the agenda for consideration at the August 11, 2008 Council Meeting and that a recommendation from the Heritage Advisory Committee also be available at the meeting. Motion carried.

Rezoning Application – Upham Drive

Council was advised that a request for rezoning of property off Upham Drive had been withdrawn by the applicant.

Financial Statements

Mr. Dale Saunders of Hemming Weir Casey Accounting Firm presented to Council the results of the Financial Audit performed by his firm for the period ending March 31, 2008. Mr. Saunders reviewed the results of the Consolidated Financial Statements which included an unqualified report from the Auditors. The statements showed an improvement in the financial position for the Town over the past year. Net revenues were \$1,442,418 and an improvement over the previous year.

On question by Councilor C. Cox, Mr. Saunders stated that the Town of Truro is in decent financial position and the Tax rates are in the middle of the list provincially among towns.

On motion of Councilors C. Cox and R. Tynes, the financial statements for the period ending March 31, 2008 were approved as presented. Motion carried.

Longworth Avenue Sidewalk

Council was advised that a request was received from the purchase of the Clifford Property on Longworth Avenue for an extension to July 31, 2008 to approve the funding of the sidewalk relocation or allow the Town to cut back the hedge to allow access to the sidewalk.

It was moved by Councilors S. Byers and B. Kinsman that permission be granted to allow the purchaser of the Clifford property until July 31 to consider the options. The motion was defeated by a vote of three in favor of the motion and three nay votes cast by Councilors D. Bennett-Cook, C. Cox and R. Tynes.

It was moved by Councilors R. Tynes and C. Cox that unless approval to fund the relocation of the sidewalk is received by July 31, 2008 the Town will proceed to cut back the hedge on August 1, 2008. Motion carried.

Pedestrian Access – Curtis Drive School

The Director of Public Works presented a map showing the two kilometer walking distance that elementary school children are expected to walk to attend the new Curtis Drive School. The Department of Education sets the limit of two kilometers and is prepared to supply sidewalk construction only in the immediate vicinity of the new school. A. MacKinnon stated that the sidewalk gaps that currently exist could be included in this year's projects and that a safe routes to school program would have to be initiated. It was noted that a tender for the sidewalk construction should be issued as soon as possible in order to have in order to have the necessary sidewalks in place before the school opens.

It was moved by Councilors R. Tynes and D. Bennett-Cook that the required sidewalk construction be tendered as soon as possible and staff are requested to review and recommend any possible funding sources and report at the next meeting of Council. Motion carried.

It was also agreed that a letter would be sent to the Minister of education expressing concern of council for the distance elementary school children are required to travel before they are permitted on a school bus. It was agreed that the school board representative would be invited to the next meeting of Council to discuss the busing policy of the School Board.

Local Improvement By-Law

The Town Solicitor reviewed with Council the proposed amendments to the local Improvements By-Law.

It was moved by Councilors S. Byers and C. Cox that the first reading of the Local Improvements By-Law be approved. Motion carried. The second reading of the By-Law will be held during the August Council meeting.

In- Camera Report

The CAO advised Council that three personnel issues and two legal issues were discussed by Council at the In-Camera meeting held on June 9, 2008. An in-Camera meeting will be held following the Public Council Meeting.

Committee Reports

Finance Report

The Finance for the month of June was submitted to Council.

On motion of B. Kinsman and D. Bennett-Cook it was moved that the Finance report for the month of June, 2008 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Fire Report

The Fire Report for the month of June, 2008 was presented to Council.

On motion of Councilors S. Byers and D. Bennett-Cook the Fire Report for the month of June 2, 2008 was approved as submitted. Motion carried.

Planning and Development Report

The Planning and Development report for the month of June 2008 was submitted to Council.

It was agreed that Mr. J. Fox would provide to Council a brief report on the status of current development projects that have been approved by Council and still outstanding. Mr. Fox noted that approved timelines are common within the Province.

On motion of Councilors S. Byers and B. Kinsman it was moved that the Planning and Development report for the month of June 2008 be approved as submitted. Motion carried.

Police Report

The Police Report for the month of June was submitted to Council for review. Councilor C. Cox was advised of the current patrol schedule in Victoria Park. Deputy Mayor G. MacArthur commented on the number of shopping carts left abandoned throughout Truro. He noted that these are a hazard to both pedestrians and motorists. S. Byers advised Council that a financial reward is usually available for the return of these carts to the stores.

It was agreed that the Police Service could contact the stores involved to determine their policy and a report would be provided to Council at their next meeting.

On motion of Councilors R. Tynes and C. Cox it was moved that the Police Report for the month of June 2008 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Public Works Report

The Public Works report for the month of June 2008 was presented to Council for consideration. Council requested that additional dust control be provided in areas such as Railway Drive. Council also expressed appreciation for the work done on Willow Street and how helpful our workers have been to the community during construction times. On question of Council, A. MacKinnon advised that reinstatement of asphalt cuts is usually about one week depending on the time of the year.

On motion of Councilors R. Tynes and D. Bennett-Cook, it was approved that the Public Works Report for the month of June 2008 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Parks and Recreation Report

The Parks and Recreation Report for the month of June 2008 was presented to Council. A question was raised regarding the cost of the Skate Park construction. The Director of Finance confirmed that the approval budget for the construction is \$290,000.

Councilor B. Kinsman, chair of the Skate Park Construction Committee advised Council that signage requirements for the new Skate Park are not included in the current budget as well as some minor landscaping. It was estimated that non-budget requirements at the Skate Park would be in the \$7000 range.

Councilor C. Cox expressed concern related to the amount of fallen trees and debris along the path ways and in the brook. Mr. F. Beshley advised that staff remove debris several times a week but there still is a lot of debris to be removed from the Park.

It was noted that the employees charged with litter clean up should make an effort to visit all areas of Town on a regular basis. Council was also advised that dog owners who frequent the Park have to clean up after their animals. The Recreation Staff were also advised that the Stan Maxwell Park needs to receive more attention from the Recreation Department.

Safety Coordinators Report

The Safety Coordinators Report for the month of June 2008 was presented to Council.

It was moved by Councilors S. Byers and C. Cox that the Safety Coordinators Report for the month of June 2008 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Questions by Members

Councilor C. Cox advised Council of the activities of the Downtown Task Group and their efforts to address as a group the concerns of the Downtown Residents. He noted that the next meeting of the Group is set for Monday July 14, 2008.

Councilor S. Byers raised concern that the last scheduled meeting of the John Ross Construction Committee did not have sufficient numbers present. Council was advised that fencing all Town and in the vicinity of the John Ross operation would cost \$35,000 to \$40,000.

Councilor S. Byers moved a motion for the Town to proceed with the installation of a fence for the safety of the Public.

After three calls to the Deputy Mayor no secondary motion was received for the motion so the motion was dropped.

Several members of Council expressed concern that the operation of the Ross Salvage Yard was a serious issue and needed to be studied and addressed for the benefit of the Town of Truro.

It was moved by Councilors R. Tynes and C. Cox that Ministers K. Casey, J. Muir and B. Taylor be asked to meet with Council to discuss the possibility of Provincial assistance to help with the impact of the Ross Operation in Truro. Motion carried.

Councilor R. Tynes advised Council that the African Youth Choir would be performing at the Baptist Church and that Council should support this performance.

Councilor B. Kinsman noted that tender of the required sidewalks for the new Elementary School on Curtis Drive would not be considered until the August meeting of Council. A. MacKinnon advised that the sidewalks could be installed in September if necessary.

It was moved by Councilors B. Kinsman and R. Tynes that council address the issue of sidewalk requirements for the Curtis Drive Elementary School at the 11, 2008 meeting of Council. Motion carried.

Appointments – CORDA Board

Council was presented with a request from the Chair of CORDA to appoint members to the Board for the coming year.

It was moved by Councilors C. Cox and R. Tynes that Mr. Stu Rath be appointed to the CORDA Board for a one year term and Mr. Peter Henderson be appointed to the CORDA Board for a three year term. Motion carried.

Request for Taxi Rate Increase

Council reviewed a request from John Starratt of Layton’s Taxi for Council to approve an increase the Taxi Rates in Truro.

A discussion was held on the need for a committee to review request for changes in the Taxi Rates and prepare a recommendation to Council. It was agreed the Town Solicitor would review the process for Taxi increase and make a report to Council for the August meeting.

Councilor R. Tynes advised Council of his intent at the next meeting of Council his intent at the next meeting of Council to move a motion to adjust Taxi rates in Truro based on the request from Mr. Starratt.

Christian Counselling Ministries

Council was advised of a request from the Christian Counselling ministries for financial assistance to help with the establishment of Archway Place in Truro.

It was moved by Councilor B. Kinsman and C. Cox that this request be referred to the 2008/09 Budget for consideration. Motion carried.

Accounts

It was moved by Councilors C. Cox and D. Bennett-Cook that Council pass the accounts as approved for the month of June 2008. Motion carried.

Adjournment

On motion of Councilors C. Cox and B. Kinsman, it was moved that the meeting be adjourned at approximately 4:30 pm. Motion carried.

G. MacArthur
Deputy Mayor

J.K. Langille
CAO