



Truro Town Council Meeting
Monday, December 7th, 2009
Council Chambers – Civic Building

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A regular public meeting of Truro Town Council was held on Monday, December 7th, 2009 at 1:00 pm in the Council Chambers of the Truro Civic Building.

Present: Mayor W. R. (Bill) Mills, Deputy Mayor G. MacArthur, Councillors B. Kinsman, S. Byers, R. Tynes, D. Bennett-Cook and C. Cox

In Attendance: Director of Finance R. Putnam, Director of Planning J. Fox, Director of Public Works A. MacKinnon, Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture D. MacKenzie, Police Chief D. MacNeil, Interim Fire Chief L. Currie, Town Solicitor J. Rafferty and CAO J. Langille

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion of Councillors C. Cox and D. Bennett-Cook, the agenda was approved as circulated. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Deputy Mayor G. MacArthur and Councillor B. Kinsman, the minutes of the Public Council Meeting held November 2nd, 2009 were approved as circulated. Motion carried.

PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS

a) Presentation – Council Remuneration Review

Kim Hominchuk, of Integrated People Solutions, presented her report to Council on Council Compensation. She was recommending that the Mayor's salary be raised to \$30,980.78, the Deputy Mayor's salary be raised to \$20,121.69 and the Councillors' salaries be raised to \$17,883.51. She also recommended that in the future, the Mayor's salary be considered 100%, and the Deputy Mayor's salary be in the range of 64-67% and the Councillors' salaries be in the range of 54-57%. This increase is to be recommended to take effect on January 1st, 2009.

On motion of Councillor C. Cox and Deputy Mayor G. MacArthur, it was moved that Council accept the report and the recommendations as presented.. Motion carried.

b) Presentation – Wilson Fuels

The Mayor recognized the 100 year anniversary of Wilson Fuels, and presented a commemorative wall hanging to Dave Wilson.

c) Presentation – 2010 Olympic Painting

Steve Gallant, of the RBC Truro made a presentation to the Town of a picture painted by Fritz the Artist, at the recent at Torch Relay Celebration in Truro.

d) Presentation – Recreation Grant to Cantabile Boys Choir

Deputy Mayor G. MacArthur, the Chair of Recreation Committee, presented a grant for \$750 from the Recreation Committee to the new Cantabile Boys Choir.

OLD BUSINESS

a) Request from Recreation Committee re: reservoir footbridge

The CAO advised that this was a request for consideration at the last Council meeting from the Recreation Committee to the Director of Public Works. The Director of Public Works responded with a letter back to the Recreation Committee, advising that the Committee had reviewed the request and the Director of Public Works and Director of Recreation will meet to discuss the request and report back to Council at their next meeting.

b) Civic Centre - Funding

The Director of Finance presented report to Council, advising that an additional 5.2 million was required from the Town for the Civic Centre. The total 9.6 million for the project will result in an extra \$960,000 in debt service charges in year one for the Town, which equates to 13.7 cents on both residential and commercial tax rates in that year.

Councillor S. Byers noted that the Civic Centre was a great project, but was concerned about the Town's ability to pay for this and still move the Town forward with other projects. She suggested that perhaps the project could be scaled back and modules built on later when money was available.

On motion of Deputy Mayor G. MacArthur and Councillor R. Tynes, Council agreed to amend the Memorandum of Understanding to increase the Town's contribution from the current \$4.4 million to \$9.6 million. Motion carried by 6 votes in favour of the motion and 1 nay vote cast by Councillor S. Byers.

IN-CAMERA SUMMARY REPORT

The CAO advised Council that there were three personnel issues and two legal issues discussed by Council at the last In-Camera meeting. An in-Camera meeting will be held following this Public Council Meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Report

The Finance for the month of November was presented to Council.

On motion of Councillors R. Tynes and C. Cox, it was moved that the Finance report for the month of November, 2009 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Fire Report

The Fire Report for the month of November was presented to Council.

The Mayor thanked the interim Fire Chief Lloyd Currie on behalf of Council for filling in for the position until a new Fire Chief was hired. The Mayor announced that Chief Blois Currie would be starting next week.

On motion of Councillors D. Bennett-Cook and S. Byers, it was moved that the Fire Report for the month of November, 2009 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Planning and Development Report

The Planning and Development report for the month of November was presented to Council.

Councillor S. Byers noted that a local developer, Mr. Wallace, is now building an additional 102 units. She noted that the last she heard, the Town's vacancy rate was around 6%. The Director of Planning advised that he was not sure of the exact number, but the vacancy rate is higher for higher end units.

Deputy Mayor G. MacArthur asked about the status of 11 Alice Street. The Director of Planning advised that it has been looked into and the Bylaw Officer noted no violation of the Minimum Standards Bylaw at this point, but will continue to monitor.

On motion of Councillors B. Kinsman and R. Tynes, it was moved that the Planning and Development report for the month of November, 2009 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Police Report

The Police Report for the month of November was presented to Council for review.

On motion of Deputy Mayor G. MacArthur and Councillor D. Bennett-Cook, it was moved that the Police Report for the month of November, 2009 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Public Works Report

The Public Works report for the month of November was presented to Council for consideration.

Councillor R. Tynes asked if the Director had decided what to do to make between Marshland and Cross Street more wheelchair friendly. The Director of Public Works advised that currently not much can be done without a capital expenditure of putting a sidewalk in there. Councillor R. Tynes asked gravel could be put down to level it off and fill the potholes. The Director of Public Works advised that gravel could be put down, but would not encourage its use as a sidewalk.

On motion of Councillors S. Byers and D. Bennett-Cook, it was moved that the Public Works Report for the month of November, 2009 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Parks, Recreation and Culture Report

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Report for the month of November was presented to Council.

The Mayor noted from the report that the New Years Eve celebrations should be discussed. Normally, the celebrations were held at the Police Station, with live entertainment in the old normal college, and then fireworks outside. He noted that last year, the celebrations were held at Victoria Park with the live entertainment still at the normal college. It was suggested that this year, the events be brought back together at Douglas Street School.

Councillor S. Byers stated there may be a problem with having fireworks right in the middle of a residential area if the celebrations were held at the Douglas Street School. She suggested the celebrations take place at Victoria Park, and use the band shell and/or a tent if needed.

Councillor R. Tynes asked if parking issues were discussed. The Director of Recreation advised that staff is aware of parking issues and have looked at alternate locations. He noted that an alternative could be to have the entertainment and activities at Douglas Street and have the fireworks in Victoria Park, where they would also be visible from the Douglas Street School.

Councillor B. Kinsman advised that he believed the events should be together in one spot and the park is a much better setting.

Councillor C. Cox noted that he believed the festivities were held in areas to highlight these prominent locations in Town and did not believe that the Douglas Street School was a particularly prominent location.

On motion of Deputy Mayor G. MacArthur and Councillor D. Bennett-Cook, it was agreed that the New Years Eve festivities would be held at the Douglas Street School on a one year trial basis, with fireworks in the park, subject to approval from the Fire Department and Traffic Authority. Motion carried by 5 votes in favour of the motion, and 2 nay votes cast by Councillors S. Byers and B. Kinsman. Motion carried.

On motion of Councillors C. Cox and D. Bennett-Cook, it was moved that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Report for the month of November, 2009 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Safety Coordinators Report

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

On motion of Councillors C. Cox and R. Tynes, it was moved that the Safety Coordinators Report for the month of November, 2009 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Councillor B. Kinsman asked if a future use had been determined for the Douglas Street School. The CAO advised that a final decision had not yet been made by Council, and a further update would be provided at the committee meeting after this Council meeting.

Councillor S. Byers noted that on the proceeds of crime issue, the FCM have stated that they are not going further on the matter, and suggested the Towns move forward and go through the Provincial Justice Minister. The Mayor advised that if Council wished, he would write a letter to the Provincial Minister, after the matter had been reviewed by the Police Board. Councillor D. Bennett-Cook suggested that a copy of the letter also be forwarded to the Nova Scotia Association of Police Boards.

NEW BUSINESS

a) Repeal – Chimney Sweeps Licenses By-law

The CAO advised that a request had been received from Juanita Bigelow, the Town Development Officer, on suggesting that since the current Chimney Sweeps Licenses By-law was no longer being used or enforced, that it be repealed.

The Town Solicitor advised that Town staff had determined that this By-law is probably a By-law that should have been repealed years ago when Council reviewed and repealed other By-laws. He advised that if a By-law is not used and not being enforced, it would be better to have it repealed. The Town Solicitor advised that if Council agreed, the process to repeal is similar to passage of a By-law. Council can make a motion now to pass first reading, and then at the next Council meeting have a second reading, with advertisement in the meantime.

Councillor B. Kinsman suggested that Council pass first reading today, but have some input from the Fire Service for the second reading.

Councillor C. Cox advised that he believed at one point the By-law would have been required, and is reluctant to repeal it without knowing the history.

Councillor D. Bennett-Cook stated that she would like to know if there is a regulatory body in place for Chimney sweeps, either industry wide or provincially.

On motion of Councillors C. Cox and D. Bennett-Cook, first reading for the repeal of the Chimney Sweeps Licenses By-law was approved. Motion carried.

b) Paul Yuzyk Award for Multiculturalism

The Mayor advised that a letter had been received from the Federal Government which he wanted to read publicly for Council's information.

The CAO reviewed the letter, and advised that it was an award to honour those dedicated to promoting multiculturalism in Canada, and that nominations are currently being accepted until March 1st, 2010.

c) Street Closure Policy – Wood Street

The CAO noted that there had been some discussion regarding the possibility of moving the current gate located on Wood Street further north to an area just south of the Secure Treatment Facility. In order to restrict access to a portion of Wood Street, Council would have to pass or adopt a Street Closure Policy. This notice would be considered Council's 7 day notice, with consideration of the policy at the January Council meeting.

The Town Solicitor advised that under the Municipal Government Act, there is a section specifically devoted to street closure and it requires that the matter be passed by Council as a policy. And furthermore, beyond the requirements of any other policy, requires that this policy be advertised ahead of time and that there be a public hearing before Council passes the policy and that notice be sent to the Minister of Transportation and Public Works for the Province before the public hearing.

The Mayor noted that this was an initiative being put forward as a public safety issue, based on activity that is carried on in that area and to curtail that activity.

On motion of Deputy Mayor G. MacArthur and Councillor D. Bennett-Cook, a public hearing will be held on January 4th, 2010, to adopt a Street Closure Policy. Motion carried.

d) Deputy Mayor Appointment

On motion of Deputy Mayor G. MacArthur and Councillor C. Cox, Councillor R. Tynes was nominated for the position of Deputy Mayor, starting January 1st, 2010. Motion carried.

Two additional calls for nominations were requested by the Mayor. Being none, Councillor R. Tynes was elected Deputy Mayor, starting January 1st, 2010.

e) Wood Cladding Brochure

The CAO reviewed a request received from the Heritage Advisory Committee, requesting that Council approve a brochure about the benefits of wood cladding for heritage homes for circulation, subject to review by the Solicitor's office.

On motion of Deputy Mayor G. MacArthur and Councillor D. Bennett-Cook, the wood cladding brochure was approved for circulation, subject to review and approval by the Solicitor's office. Motion carried.

11) MUNICIPAL GRANT REQUESTS

a) Request from Colchester Legion Pipes & Drums

The CAO reviewed a request received from the Colchester Legion Pipes & Drums, for a grant of \$2,000 to help offset costs for travel to the Netherlands for the 60th Anniversary of the Liberation of the Netherlands.

It was agreed that this request would be sent off for budget consideration.

The Mayor advised that he had received a letter from the SPCA requesting tax exemption status. Council agreed that the CAO would review and it would be sent off for budget consideration.

The Mayor also requested, on behalf of Colleen Pinkney, who will be representing Truro at the World Curling Championships, that the Town send off for budget consideration a request for a grant.

ACCOUNTS

It was moved by Councillors R. Tynes and D. Bennett-Cook that Council pay the accounts as presented be approved for the month of November, 2009. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Councillors R. Tynes and D. Bennett-Cook, it was moved that the meeting be adjourned at approximately 3:45 p.m. Motion carried.

W. R. (Bill) Mills
Mayor

J.K. Langille
CAO