

**DIGBY TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
Monday November 7, 2022
Council Chambers**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Deputy Mayor Mike Bartlett, Vice Chair
Councillor Peter Turnbull
Councillor Paul Saulnier
Councillor William McCormick

STAFF PRESENT : Tom Ossinger, Chief Administrative Officer
Leslie Brinton, Executive Assistant

REGRETS: Mayor Ben Cleveland, Chair

A. CALL TO ORDER

Deputy Mayor Bartlett called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

B. PUBLIC HEARING

B.1 Boundary Review Public Hearing

C. AGENDA

C.1 Additions/Deletions

None.

C.2 Approval

Motion

Moved by Councillor Turnbull and seconded by Councillor Saulnier that the Agenda for November 7, 2022 be as approved as presented.

Motion Carried.

D. DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

D.1 Digby and Area Theatre Group

The Theatre Group is here tonight regarding the formal request to Council for the former Salvation Army rental location at 53 Mount Street. At the present time the theatre group is in a location in Weymouth that is for sale so that are seeking a new location and the 53 Mount Street location would be ideal for them close to the high school theatre and lots of space that could be used for workshops and storage and the Digby Foodbank could still be located in the lower level of the building and there could also be rental office space in the upstairs as well if we wanted that. The Board is passionate about the arts and theatre in the area and with Covid-19 they were able to hang in even though theatre could not happen during the lock down. In the past at other locations The Theatre group was able to pay a rental fee for the location in which they occupied. They have been successful in their fundraising efforts. At this point in time the building is still under lease to

the Salvation Army they have provided us the 6 month notice to vacate per the lease agreement however we may have the ability to end the lease with the Salvation Army sooner than the 6 months. There is an individual that has reached out to the Office of the CAO regarding their interest in assisting the Digby Food bank the CAO has yet to reach this individual on this assistance however by the Committee of the Whole meeting the CAO should be able to have all the information required for Council consideration at the November Committee of the Whole.

E. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

E.1 October 3, 2022

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Saulnier and seconded by Councillor McCormick that the Minutes of October 3, 2022 be approved as presented.

Motion Carried.

F. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

F.1 Marketing Levy

The Marketing Levy had been amended and Council has approved the by law and notice has been sent to the Province. The province is now discussing legislation that will allow all Municipal units to implement a Marketing Levy however that will likely percentage rather than a dollar amount as the Town and Municipality of Digby have adopted. The next step will be to send notice to all fixed roof accommodation owners.

G. REPORTS

G.1 Chief Administrative Officer Report

The Chief Administrative Officer Report reviewed his report with Council. The CAO spoke about The FCM's Community Building Retrofit initiative which helps to optimize the energy performances and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The application has been submitted under this initiative the process will include an energy audit that will lead to creation of an energy and carbon reduction strategy for six municipally owned buildings. The largest users of energy are being considered first. The town will use these audit reports to identify if any of the facilities warrant a more comprehensive feasibility study, and use the consultant team to submit funding Applications to FCM for Feasibility Study of these in depth assessments. The application has two step process a pre-application and full application. At this point we have done the pre application process and received confirmation from FCM that the town's pre-application and we meets eligibility criteria and we are ready to proceed with the full application. The estimated time for processing the full application is four to six months and another six to eight months for loan and grant applications. On October 31 the CAO meet with Riley Simms regarding Food Vending at the Farmers Market the CAO found the meeting very worthwhile and left the meeting with a clearer understanding of the enforcement side that will come from Nova Scotia Environment. The CAO will have to do more review into the requirement and then meet with the Farmers Market committee. The CAO's of the south west region met via Zoom to discuss the Auditor General report regarding the Oversight and Management of Government Owned Public Housing. The Audit was completed because it is important that eligible Nova Scotians are provided access to public housing in a fair, consistent and timely manner that ensures public housing units are used to their maximum potential. The CAO reviewed the project agreements with the Town of Digby there are eight agreements dating between 1970 and 1987 with the funding ratio for the Town at 12.5% during the review of the agreements the CAO was unable to determine an expiry date of the agreements. The Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing recently announced that the

5 housing authorities are making changes that aim to benefit Nova Scotians already living in or waiting for housing by establishing a new entity responsible for provincial housing the new Crown Corporation the 5 housing units will come together as one unit. The CAO met with Mary Saulnier to discuss the living park development step one is to determine the location of the park there are Two options that come to mind one is the former Tideview Terrace site and the other being McBride's Park but there are other locations in the Town that might be considered.

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Saulnier and seconded by Councillor McCormick that Living Park Development site location formal discussion be moved to the Committee of the Whole.

Motion Carried.

The CAO received an application for a variance to the side yard setback the Development Officer made a site visit and reviewed the application and the variance was granted notices was sent to all property owners within 30 meters of the applicant's property as required by the Land Use By-Law and the MGA there is an appeal period within 14 days of the receipt of the notice. The Community Development Coordinator office has now been relocated to the second floor to allow her the ability to better focus on the duties and will allow privacy when needed. The CAO provided an update on the services of Iris Communication we have used their services for communications and public affairs consulting services responding to the issues raised on the Indigenous and Non-indigenous fisheries file in the last eight to twelve months the file seems to have quieted down and the lead CAO's of this file feel that it is an appropriate time to end or at least pause the contract with Iris Communication. The CAO has responded that this is the time to end the contact with Iris Communication. The CAO provided an update to Council that the 232 Victoria Street property sale to a private individuals is now completed. And the purchase of the lot at 74 Sydney Street is now completed.

Motion:

Moved by Councillor McCormick and seconded by Councillor Turnbull that the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer report for the month of November be accepted as presented.

Motion Carried.

G.2 Digby Area Recreation Commission Report

The DARC report was distributed to Council for review. Debbie Height is now the new Active Living Coordinator Debbie will be taking over the files that were being worked on by Cara. Cara has been working on the Community Use of Schools committee however there is a change to administration team at DRHS thus fall and this means another fresh start to the relationship building Debbie will carry on this work.

H. CORRESPONDENCE

H.1 Granting of a Variance

This is the official notice to the Town for the granting of the variance for a property at 94 West Street because the Town of Digby are property owners in the thirty meter area we are receiving this notice. There are 14 days as indicated on the notice to appeal the variance at this time the CAO has spoken to three individuals at this time to discuss the variance and the neighbour most Affected and the Development Officer has also made an in person site visit.

H.2 Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing and Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

Deputy Minister Paul Lafleche sent correspondence to all Municipalities and Regional Centers for Education regarding the payments of Invoices in particular the amendments made to the Education Act and the payment of the Fire Rate to the Town of Digby. This has been an ongoing discussion with DMA staff and Town staff and they have agreed to remit the payment for the Fire Rate. They will be working on a long term approach moving forward.

H.3 International Day for the Elimination of Violence- Zonta

Correspondence was received from Zonta regarding the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Woman on November 25th they are asking us to light up the bandstand on the waterfront in orange on or around November 25th. Council provided direction to the CAO for the the lighting of the bandstand.

I. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

I.1 None.

J. NEW BUSINESS

J.1 Bill 212 An act to amend the Public Utility Act

The President and CEO of Nova Scotia Power sent correspondence to Municipal units regarding the concerns that NSP has about the impact of Bill 212 will have on the customers.

J.2 Bill 225 and HRM Noise by Law

Waye Mason Councillor for HRM drafted correspondence to Mayor Cleveland regarding Bill 225 and the HRM noise bylaw. This bill gives the Minister the power to veto HRM by laws as related to construction.

K. IN CAMERA

K.1 Personnel

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Saulnier and seconded by Councillor McCormick that the Council move to In Camera session for Personnel.

Motion Carried.

Motion:

Moved by Councillor McCormick and seconded by Councillor Saulnier that Council moved out of In Camera.


Motion Carried.

L. ADJOURNMENT

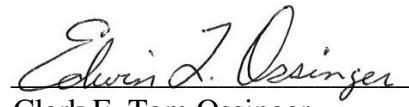
Motion:

Motion for adjournment was moved by Councillor Saulnier and seconded by Councillor Turnbull at 8:16 P.M.

Motion Carried.



Mayor Ben Cleveland



Clerk E. Tom Ossinger