

**DIGBY TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
Monday November 6, 2023
Council Chambers**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Ben Cleveland, Chair
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:

A. CALL TO ORDER

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

B. PUBLIC HEARING

B.1 None

C. AGENDA

C.1 Additions/Deletions

One addition to the Agenda In Camera J.1 Housing Trust

C.2 Approval

Motion

Moved by Councillor McCormick and seconded by Deputy Mayor Bartlett that the Agenda for November 6, 2023, be as approved with one addition under In Camera J.1 Housing Trust.

Motion Carried.

D. DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

D.1 None.

E. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

E.1 October 3, 2023

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Saulnier and seconded by Councillor McCormick that the Minutes of October 3, 2023, be approved as presented.

Motion Carried.

F. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

F.1 None.

G. REPORTS

G.1 Chief Administrative Officer Report

The Chief Administrative Officer was presented. The CAO spoke about proposed amendments to the Marketing Levy By law these were discussed at Committee of the Whole and Council was asked to provide any comments to the CAO on the amendments no comments were received. To move forward the CAO requires a consensus of Council on the proposed amendments. This change from dollar amount to percentage is coming from Provincial legislation which will likely create some vocal comments from the industry. The draft by law has a change in wording to have a broader definition rather than increasing room nights. The draft also has a minimum number of rooms before the levy will apply discussion ensued and council decided to remain as status quo with no change to the number of rooms the CAO will notify the Municipality that Town Council is not in favor of amending the room nights. We will bring forward to Committee of the Whole for review. The Digby Transfer station has experienced some issues with the administering of the operating agreement and a meeting was held and a decision to split the responsibilities of the site for a period effective October 25. The RFPs for design engineer services for Church Street pre design and full design for King Street both closed on October 19th staff have reviewed and evaluated the RFP's and the recommendations are coming forward.

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Turnbull and seconded by Councillor Saulnier that Council award the RFP for Predesign for Church Street (Victoria to King) project be awarded to ABLE Engineering/Land Surveying in the amount of \$24,955 plus HST.

Motion Carried.

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Saulnier and seconded by Councillor McCormick that Council award the RFP for full design for King Street (Racquette to Prince William Street) project be award to EXP in the amount of \$78,625 plus HST.

Motion Carried.

The tenders were extensively reviewed by the Senior Management Team and the lowest RFP was eliminated due to the lack of team experience with Water and Wastewater Design for the full design engineering for the King Street project. The CAO has placed the quarterly report from the Community Navigator on the Digby Cloud for Council information the report is considered a confidential report due to the personal information within the report. Housing Trust of NS contacted the CAO for an interview for the purpose of collaborating with then to build and maintain diverse and livable communities across Nova Scotia, their primary mission is to provide good quality, affordable housing for low to moderate income working households in communities where the cost for housing is skyrocketing or a shortage of good, quality housing for rent the CAO will provide more information on this item In Camera. The Catholic Church parking lot is looking to install shelter units on their property a representative from the Digby & Area Housing Coalition was speaking to the CAO concerning the project and any land use issues that may arise. The CAO has consulted our planner it would seem that many municipalities are turning a blind eye to permitting these types of units. The CAO discussed entered into a MOU agreement between the

town and the Archdiocese to ensure that it doesn't develop into a large-scale operation. The Council directed the CAO to draft a MOU for the shelter units. Department of Municipal Affairs and housing has announced a call for applications under the Municipal Capital Growth Program (MCGP) this is a new one-time program for 2023/2024 that provides investment for capital municipal infrastructure to service growing population while also supporting provincial priority areas the Senior Management team will be discussed potential opportunities and the generators for the lift stations and one for town hall might be a great time to apply for these but this will be further discussed at the Senior Management Team meeting the application deadline for submission is December 13th. The Western REN is looking at a regional Municipal PACE Program as well as hiring an Energy Concierge to help homeowners navigate the various home energy retrofit programs there is an opportunity for funding through NSFAM under the Sustainable Community Challenge Fund as an "enabling grant" to be used for loan collateral for this joint program they are also looking for a lead municipality to work with them on the application there is no municipal funding commitment needed to apply just a letter of support. Council would like to have the Western REN come and speak on the program.

Motion:

Moved by Councillor McCormick and seconded by Councillor Saulnier that Council draft and send a letter of support to the Western REN for the application and confirmation that the Town of Digby is interested in being a partner on the joint PACE program.

Motion Carried.

G.2 Digby Area Recreation Commission Reports

The reports were distributed in the package. The climbing wall has been moved to Weymouth for the winter they have space there and they really wanted to have it. The ice has been installed with good turnouts for most skating events. Councillor Saulnier asked if there was ever consideration into live streaming from the arena for various events.

H. CORRESPONDENCE

H.1 Nature Canada

Correspondence was received from the Nature Canada's ocean conservation team asking for a voice as a municipality to influence national government to protect the coast that we rely on for social, cultural, economic and ecological benefits with a proclamation we have a policy in that doesn't allow for proclamation however we can recognize the important work that has been done and will continue to be done.

H.2 NSFAM Correspondence from Shelburne Counties

All municipalities received a copy of this correspondence from Shelburn Counties regarding the need to improve rural cell phone coverage however with the province announcing their commitment to fixing cell coverage in areas like this.

H.3 Department of Municipal Affairs Correspondence NSFAM

NSFAM received this correspondence from the Department of Municipal Affairs regarding the service exchange agreement.

H.4 Premier Houston – YourHealth NS App

Premier Houston sent correspondence to Council regarding the recent launch of the YourHealthNS app which allows people to book services, find access to care and get information easier and faster.

H.5 EPR & Impending January 1, 2024 deadline

Correspondence was received from Waste Check regarding the EPR we have the option to Opt Out and do this on our own however it is much easier if we do this together under Waste Check. Council agreed to opt in with Waste Check doing the required paperwork.

I. NEW BUSINESS

I.1 Concerned Citizen-unsightly property

Correspondence was received from a group of citizens expressing the immediate request to enact a by law to limit the use of siding or paint on a building to two colors and prohibits the use of multiple coloured siding, multiple-colored paints on shingles or the use of scrap materials within town limits. The Council discussed the definition of unsightly and is it unsightly or ugly. Council suggested speaking to the legal term regarding the unsightliness of the property. The By Law Officer has been researching this complaint in order to restrict color or material it will likely have to be done through a land use by law. With a current review of the Land Use By law happening now it is something that can be brought up in discussion with the PAC Committee however not a lot that can be done now that it has happened.

I.2 Housing

Mayor Cleveland along with Deputy Mayor Bartlett spoke about a meeting with housing stakeholders recently no new points came from this meeting except to ask for ideas on helping with the housing issues.

J. IN CAMERA

J.1 Legal

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Turnbull and seconded by Councillor McCormick that Council moves in Camera for Legal

Motion Carried.

Motion:

Moved by Councillor McCormick and seconded by Councillor Turnbull that Council moves out of In Camera for legal.

Motion Carried.

K. ADJOURNMENT

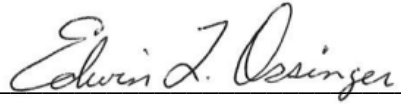
Motion:

Motion for adjournment was moved by Councillor McCormick and seconded by Councillor Turnbull at 7:37 P.M as there was no further business.

Motion Carried.



Mayor



Clerk