

**DIGBY TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
Monday January 9, 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 : Leslie Brinton, Executive Assistant

REGRETS: Tom Ossinger, Chief Administrative Officer

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

Four additions to the Agenda under New Business J.4 Robbie Burns Dinner J.5 Property Valuation Services, J.6 Pre Budget Meeting and J.7 New Year's Levee.

C.2 Approval

Motion

Moved by Councillor Saulnier and seconded by Councillor Turnbull that the Agenda for January 9, 2023 be as approved with four additions under New Business J.4 Robbie Burns Dinner, J.5 Property Valuation Services, J.6 Pre Budget Meeting and J.7 New Year's Levee
Motion Carried.

D. DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

D.1 None.

E. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

E.1 December 5, 2022

Motion:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Bartlett and seconded by Councillor McCormick that the Minutes of December 5, 2022 be approved as presented.
Motion Carried.

E.2 November 7, 2022 Public Hearing Boundary Review

The Public Hearing Minutes were missed coming forward at the December Council so that is why They are coming forward now for approval.

Motion:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Bartlett and seconded by Councillor Saulnier that the November 7, 2022 Boundary Review Public Hearing Minutes are approved as presented.

Motion Carried.

F. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

F.1 Mount Street School

The theatre group has reached out to the CAO to see if a decision has been made on the potential future of the building. There is currently more than one interested in that building the mayor agreed to reach out and invite those groups in to speak.

F.2 NSUARB Boundary Review Resolution

The Council has made the formal decision on the application this is just a formal resolution that Council needs to adopt.

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Turnbull and seconded by Councillor Saulnier that

Whereas the Council of the Town of Digby is elected at large and the Town Council conducted public consultation using an online survey that was available on the Town of Digby Website www.digby.ca, hardcopies of the online survey were available at the Town Hall and were accepted as written submissions by regular mail or drop off at Town Hall, And an advertised Public Meeting was held at the Council Chambers located at Town Hall 147 First Avenue in Digby, on Monday November 7th 2022 at 6:00 p.m. where Council received both written and verbal submissions

And whereas the results of the public consultation indicated that 60% of the respondents favoured the status quo in Council Size, and indicated that 80% favoured the status quo of the "At Large" polling district.

And whereas the 2021 Census shows the population of the Town of Digby as 2,001 a 2.9% decrease over the 2016 Census, and the geographic size of the town is unchanged.

And whereas a review of the level of participation in committees/boards/agencies, and review of the appointments to committees results in an equitable distribution of time commitments and workloads amongst the Council members.

Be it therefore resolved that the Council of the Town of Digby make application to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board RE: Section 369 of the Municipal Government Act to keep the status quo of the number of Councillors at 1 Mayor and 4 Councillors, and that the polling district remain "At Large".

Motion Carried.

G. REPORTS

G.1 Chief Administrative Officer Report

The Chief Administrative Officer was unable to attend tonight meeting the Executive Assistant Provided a brief overview of the report. The Digby Biomass District Heating Prefeasibility Report Is now on the Digby Cloud the CAO is suggesting that we add this to a future Council Meeting for further discussion once Council has the opportunity to review the report. The By Law Enforcement Officer position closed there was a total of thirty two applicants received these were shortlisted down to eleven and then reviewed again and shortlisted down to seven these interviews will be conducted on or after January 12.

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Saulnier and seconded by Councillor McCormick that the Chief Administrative Officer Report be accepted as presented.

Motion Carried.

G.2 Committee of the Whole Report

There are four recommendations coming forward from the Committee of the Whole.

Motion:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Bartlett and seconded by Councillor McCormick that the diseased elm trees removal be done by Atlantic Arborists in the amount of \$17,178.70.

Motion Carried.

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Turnbull and seconded by Councillor Saulnier that Council host the African Heritage Month Launch Event.

Motion Carried.

Motion:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Bartlett and seconded by Councillor McCormick that Council approve The Western REN Intermunicipal Agreement changes recommending that participating Municipal Units amend Section 9 (k) of the Intermunicipal Agreement updating the quorum requirements to 50% plus 1 to allow the Liaison and Oversight Committee (LOC) to honor its mandate in the agreement.

Motion Carried.

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Saulnier and seconded by Deputy Mayor Bartlett that Council approve the Terms of Reference for the Marketing and Promotions Levy Advisory Committee as presented.

Motion Carried.

G.4 Digby Area Tourism Association

The Report was circulated in the package. The Marketing Committee has started the work to produce the Digby Guidebook for the area there will be an ad coming out in the Clare Shopper/Lobster Bay in order to recruit more guide book sales for the 2023 edition.

H. CORRESPONDENCE

H.1 NSFM 12 Month Notice-Construction & Demolition Debris Regulations and Guideline Changes

NSFM received the 12 month notice for the upcoming changes to construction and demolition debris regulation and guidelines around pressure treated lumber.

I. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

I.1 None.

J. NEW BUSINESS

J.1 Biomass Prefeasibility Study Report

The full report is on the Digby Cloud for viewing this report should be viewed by the Committee And a full conversation can take place at the upcoming Committee of the Whole Meeting. This is just a prefeasibility study there will likely be lots of questions around the report cost being a big One.

J.2 Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve-Tree Initiative

Correspondence to the CAO on a tree planting program they are asking if we are interested in free Trees for the Town of Digby and where they shall be located will remain up to the Municipality to determine the appropriate location. The CAO and Director of Public Works can determine if this is something we can discuss on a Zoom call with the Biosphere folks to come to a decision on location.

J.3 Committees of Council

Mayor Cleveland has compiled the list of Committees of Council as per your email submissions to him. Councillor McCormick would like to remain on the Senior Safety Board as he was just recently added. The Executive Assistant will do a final list revision and distribute to Council.

J.4 Robbie Burns Dinner Digby Area Board of Trade

The Digby Area Board of Trade Robbie Burns Dinner will be held at the Digby Pines in support of the Digby General Hospital Auxiliary and Fundy Hospice tickets prices are \$95.00 each. Mayor Cleveland has been asked to emcee the event.

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Saulnier and seconded by Councillor McCormick that Council approve a ticket purchase for Mayor Cleveland to attend the Digby & Area Board of Trade Robbie Burns Dinner in the amount of \$95.00.

Motion Carried.

J.5 Property Valuation Services Corporation

Correspondence was received via email from PVSC's Paul Beazley to see if Council is interested in Receiving a presentation either formal or informal they have been doing sessions with municipal units with a lunch and learn type presentation either via Zoom or in person.

Council wishes were an evening Zoom session with Monday or Tuesday nights.

J.6 Pre Budget Consultation Meeting

Deputy Mayor Bartlett would like to have an pre budget session either an evening or Saturday afternoon to have an informal conversation about future projects, review of the strategic plan and discuss the upcoming budget perhaps the third week in February.

J.7 Christmas Levee

Councillor Saulnier would like to consider changing up the annual New Year's Levee to create an Event that more folks would turn out to and have something that would draw more people to come out and not necessarily on New Year's. The Levee only appeals to a small portion of people and if we were to change it up it would likely attract more folks to come out. More discussion to come at the February Council meeting think of some ideas for a replacement event.

K. IN CAMERA

K.1 None.

L. ADJOURNMENT


Motion:

Motion for adjournment was moved by Councillor Turnbull and seconded by Councillor McCormick at 7:02 P.M.

Motion Carried.



Mayor



Clerk